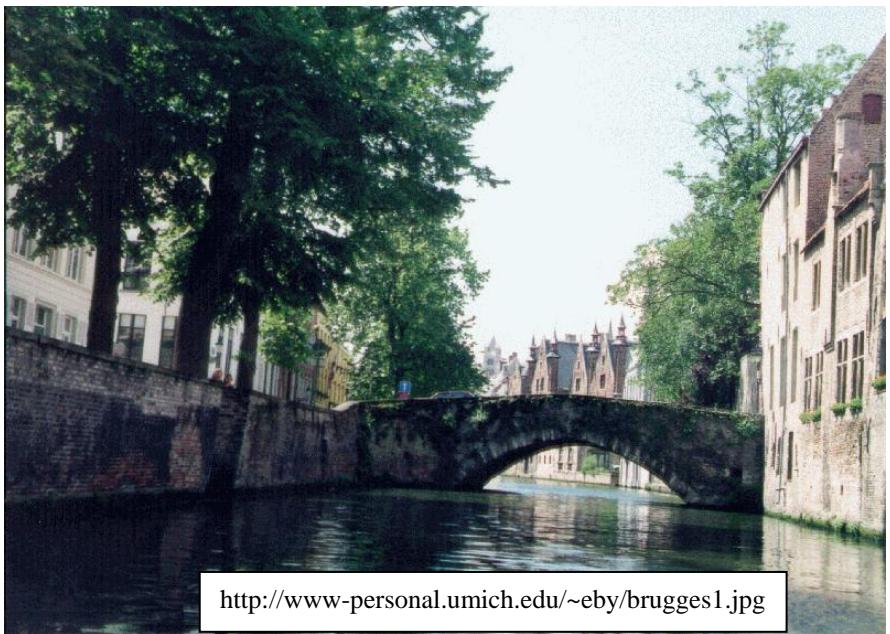


# Belgian Lace



<http://www-pnp.physics.ox.ac.uk/~miyagawa/suisse/photo/travel/bruges/belfry.jpg>



<http://www-personal.umich.edu/~eby/bruges1.jpg>



<http://www-personal.umich.edu/~eby/bruges3.jpg>



<http://www-personal.umich.edu/~eby/bruges4.jpg>

## BELGIAN LACES

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Official Quarterly Bulletin of  
**THE BELGIAN RESEARCHERS**  
Belgian American Heritage Association  
Founded in 1976

Our principal objective is:  
**Keep the Belgian Heritage alive in our hearts and in the hearts of our posterity**

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Send payments and articles to this office: THE BELGIAN RESEARCHERS

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**THANK YOU FOR REMEMBERING TO SEND IN YOUR DUES FOR 2001!**

Dear Friends,

Thank You for your correspondence and for your contributions to The Belgian Researchers. Your submissions greatly enrich Belgian Laces. I hope you will keep them coming. Expect to see these in the next issues. Thanks to Matt Verona and Micheline Gaudette we are now going to be able to offer you the Indexes to the old issues of Belgian Laces in the form of a computer file. Soon we hope the first index will also be available. It is larger and requires more proofreading before we can make it available.

I would like to make these indexes available to all the members. Working with BelgiumRoots, they will also be available on their site soon. These files can also be sent via email. Just contact me and it will be on its way. If you do not have email, but would like a copy, send \$1.00 more with your dues renewal, and you will find it on its way asap.

The index for the later issues of Belgian Laces is in the making and it will also be available under the same conditions as soon as it is finished.

Again, THANK YOU for being there! Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2001!

Régine

PS: When you try contacting me by email... it's a #1 in the back of 'netusa', not the letter L. I'm sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused any of you.

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!**

898. Mel KING, Silvercreek, WA

903. Patricia L. MEEHAN, Albuquerque, NM

899. Patricia SWIFT, Troy, IL

904. Marilyn VAN ALSTYNE, Bend, OR

900. Heidi ARNO, Modesto, CA

905. Carroll & Hortense SWENSON, Vienna, VA

901. Joseph R. SCHRAM, Ft Bragg, NC

906. Mary BENNETT, Lapeer, MI

902. Dale VAN DONSEL, Port Orchard, WA

**PRINCE PHILIPPE AND PRINCESS MATHILDE WIN OVER NEW YORK**

Belgium Today,  
Volume 5, Issue 4  
September -  
October 2000

There were smiles all around as Prince Philippe and Princess Mathilde met with hundreds of New Yorkers early this month in a non-stop, action-packed tour to promote Belgian fashion, diamonds, cuisine, art, and business.

The flurry of activities for the couple, dubbed by the New York Times "the fabulously cool new royals," began shortly after they arrived from Brussels on September 9. The kick-off was a reception for local Belgians, sponsored by Interbrew, at Markt, one of several popular Belgian eateries in Manhattan.

Over the next three days, the Prince and the Princess had a chance to view the colorful Parade of Flags — 180 flags painted by Belgian artists— presented by ARTWALL + B at Rockefeller Center, open an exhibition of etchings by James Ensor at the Shepherd Derom Gallery, watch a show of Belgian fashions by Véronique Branquinho and Paul Knott at the Fashion Museum, visit the D'Agostino supermarket hosting a Belgian Food Week, preside over the Friendship Award Gala of the Belgian American Chamber of Commerce, and attend an award presentation hosted by the Diamond High Council.

Among the visit's other highlights for Prince Philippe were a power breakfast at the New York Stock Exchange and a symposium on global transport— "Serving the Belgian Heartlands & Beyond" — organized by the Port of Antwerp in cooperation with the Port Authority of New York. The Princess visited Abraham House, a community refuge run by Belgian Sister Ponnet, and was given a guided tour of the Flemish paintings at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

The New York Times feature article that preceded the visit, "Belgium's Prince and Princess Plan a Royal Tour, New York-Style," by Glenn Collins, is currently available on the Embassy's Web site: [www.dipbel.org/usa/](http://www.dipbel.org/usa/).

*Financiers on a great scale:*

### **The Masters of the Charleroy Coal Mines. - part 3**

Written by André BALERIAUX

Translated by Régine BRINDLE

#### **Philanthropists or slave owners?**

In the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the fate of the miners was not to be envied. Work was hard - 10, 12 or 14 hours per day - and poorly paid, even though the mines offered the best paying jobs. Men still didn't make more than 4 francs per day; while the women brought home 1.8 franc and the children 1 franc. Eight year old children worked the mines as witnessed in this work book : "On Aug 18<sup>th</sup>, 1837, given a miner's book to Jules DUPONT, 8y old" or again, "On Aug 26<sup>th</sup>, 1838, Bonne-Esperance Mine worker's book to Virginie MEUNIER, 12y old"!

Miners' families were poor, very poor. Therefore, every birth was a welcome event as each child born would soon be a supplemental source of income for the family! The houses were poor and dilapidated. The miner, as were his contemporary workers, was not protected against illness or accident.

The mine owners of Charleroy were the first ones to remedy these dramatic situations. Proof? Here's an interesting piece of evidence:

*July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1808*

*Proceedings of the visit to Le Gouffre at Châtelineau.*

*For the purpose of attracting good workers to the mine of Le Gouffre, Mr. DENISTI, work director, is authorized to agree with those whose work he is satisfied with for the whole year, with condition that they work diligently and do their task exactly as the foreman wants it done, that 3 sous per month will be held back instead of 2 to be used in case of an accident, the doctor will be paid for by the company and the miner will receive 8 sous per work day for which he is incapacitated. As soon as he is able to return to the pit, he will be required to do whatever menial task he can manage.*

The daily pay of a miner was 11 -12 sous at that time. The first worry of the Coal Mining Association was to provide for the workers and their families in case of work related accidents.

On February 1<sup>st</sup>, 1841, sixty-two years before the legislation became concerned, the Association founded the first Miners' Prevention Funds.

The owners made voluntary donations. They decided to give sum equal to that of the workers' dues. They increased their participation progressively: in 1881, their portion was 265,358 francs; in 1883, it rose to 1,010,927 francs. As early as 1882, they no longer held money back from the workers' pay.

From 1841 to 1885, the Funds had disbursed as compensations and pensions to its workers the sum of 15,177,140 francs when the workers' participation only amounted to 6,137,275 francs. Public organizations had given 667,754 francs bringing the owners' participation to 8,372,111 francs.

To provide their personnel with more decent lodgings, the owners built workers' towns. This however didn't start happening until the second half of the century... when the Charleroy basin had become one of the most prosperous.

We owe it to truth that the coal mine owners never saw well the successive law propositions aiming at forbidding women and children to work in the mines. In 1843 already, a Commission had been given the task to write a law to that effect, but the work was never finished. The project was revived in 1859, without any more success. It finally happened on December 13<sup>th</sup>, 1889 when it was decreed that beginning January 1892, girls and women less than 21y of age and children younger than 12 would no longer be allowed to work underground in the mines. It was not until the law passed on June 5<sup>th</sup>, 1911 to forbid access to the underground mine to women and children younger than 14 y of age. That law took effect on Jun 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1914.

They probably considered their help so cheap they could not do without it!

It's only after WWI that real solutions to the great social problems began to appear. It was not until January 24<sup>th</sup> 1920 that a Commission was constituted whose sole purpose was to work with workers' and owners' associations to find peaceful solutions to the problems relating to working in the mines.

That's when people began to fight for the 8 hours workday.

In 1923, the mine owners were the first ones to give the family allocations to their personnel.

So, were they philanthropists or were they slave-owners?

As always, in similar matters, all depends where you stand. It has been written that during the 19th century, which witnessed the explosion in the mining industry, the generation of the Industrial knights was there, strong, ingenious, enterprising, imaginative, but alas blind and deaf to the cries that came from the pits, which were more and more deadly. One said that the workers' cities had no other purpose but to compel the miners in the strongest sense of the word.

On the other hand, it was also written, with too much self-satisfaction, that more so than in any other industry, there was an intimacy between the miners and their bosses; they were one big family, the family of the Coal mines.

The truth is more than likely in between the two extremes.

Were the mine owners philanthropists? By no means!

Were they slave-owners? Not either.

## THANK YOU FOR REMEMBERING TO SEND IN YOUR DUES FOR 2001!

They were industrials, financiers, with good qualities but also with their faults. It is also very important to place them back in their context. For more than a century, these men presided over the destiny of an industry that brought glory, renown and riches to their region.

The Coal Mining Masters of the Charleroy region? Yes, financiers on a great scale.

### **Belgian Emigrants from the Borinage Region - part 3**

Collaborative work of Jean DUCAT, Debby JONES, Phyllis SNYDER and Regine BRINDLE

S <b>DELCROIX</b> , Jules	b. Flénu	emigrated to Sturgeon, PA
H <b>DELSAUT</b> , Desire Sr.	b. Cuesmes?	emigrated to Patton, PA, 1897
C <b>DELSAUT</b> Desire Jr.	b. Cuesmes?	emigrated to Patton, PA, 1903
C <b>DELSAUT</b> , Victor		emigrated to Patton, PA, 1903
S <b>DELSAUT</b> , Gustave	b. Jun 1846	emigrated to Westville, IL, 1897
S <b>DELSAUT</b> , Joseph	b. 31 Mar 1880, Cuesmes Son of DELSAUT, Augustin (36)/ Orelie Josephine DAMIEN	emigrated to IL, 1896
H <b>DELSAUT</b> , Louis	b. 12 May 1854, Cuesmes, son of DELSAUT, Emmanuel (38)/ANDRE, Catherine	emigrated to Danville, IL, 1903
W <b>HERAUT</b> , Adolphine	b. 10 Jan 1853, Cuesmes Daughter of HERAULT, Paul (32)/CHOTEAU, Marie Therese	emigrated to Danville, IL, 1903
c1 DELSAUT, Jules	b. 7 Aug 1877, Cuesmes	
c1 DELSAUT, Marie (Therese)*	b. 5 Jun 1887, Cuesmes	emigrated to Danville, IL, 1903
c2 DELSAUT, Camille	b. 8 Apr 1890, Cuesmes	emigrated to Danville, IL, 1903
* married in Danville, IL on 7 July 1905 Leon BRUNET, from France; regains her Belgian nationality on 11 Feb 1928, at her request, in Cuesmes, Belgium.		
H <b>DELVALLEE</b> , Alphonse Sr.	b. Hornu	emigrated to Ladd, IL, 1901
W FRANCK, Zelia	b. Hornu	emigrated to Ladd, IL, 1901
c1 DELVALLEE, Alphonse Jr.		emigrated to Ladd, IL, 1901
c2 DELVALLEE, Alfred		emigrated to Ladd, IL, 1901
H <b>DELVALLEE</b> , Leopold	b. Boussu	emigrated to Pittsburgh, KS, 1887
W ---, Maria	b. 1860?, Boussu	emigrated to Pittsburgh, KS, 1887
H <b>DENNY</b> , Auguste	b.29 Apr 1854-5, Belgium - d. 1925	
W1 BEAUVOIS, Eliza	b.12 Feb 1859, Belgium - died 1888 daughter of BEAUVOIS, Emmanuel /Victoire Rosine Augustine BOUDIN	
c1 DENNY, Edward	b. 29 Mar 1882, Belgium - d. 8 Apr 1962	
c2 DENNY, Alexander	b. 29 Feb 1884	
c3 DENNY, Augusta	b. Mar 1886, Belgium	
W2 BEAUVOIS, Louisa	b. Oct 1874, Belgium, daughter of BEAUVOIS, Emmanuel /Victoire Rosine Augustine BOUDIN	emigrated 1888 - died 1915
c1 DENNY, Auguste	b. 3 Dec 1891, IL	married Agnes WALLACE d. 24 May 1952
c2 DENNY, Joseph	b. 22 May 1893, IL	married Julie MITCHELL d. in 1949
c3 DENNY, Eliza	b. Aug 1896, IL	married ? FIFE
c4 DENNY, Louise	b. 13 Jan 1899, IL	married ? MORGAN
c5 DENNY, Alex	b. 29 Jan 1903, IL	married Verna ? d. 28 Sep 1979
c6 DENNY, Mary	b. 11 Nov 1905, IL	married 1. ? DELANEY/ 2. ? ARUNDEL
c7 DENNY, Leona	b. 4 Apr 1908, IL	married ? FOWLER
*information on the BEAUVOIS families was found by Debra JONES in a family history book written by Glenda THOMAS, 922 Clay Street, Niles, MI 49120 - 616-683-2845		
H * <b>DEQUINPAUL</b> , Alexandre	b. Cuesmes	*another son was DEQUIMPAUL, Jules, b. 3 Jul 1874, in Cuesmes
W BELOT, Adolphine		
H <b>DEQUINPAUL</b> (DEQUINPOL), Alexandre	b. 5 Aug 1868, Cuesmes	emigrated to Westville, IL, 1892 - Na
Son of Alexandre (30)/BELOT, Adolphine married 19 Jul 1890, Cuesmes		
W CHEVALIER, Augustine, b. 20 Jan 1869, Cuesmes, daughter of CHEVALIER, Gratien/VAN COPENOLLE, Justine Julie		
c1 DEQUINPOL, Alexander	b. 31 Dec 1890, Cuesmes	
c2 DEQUINPOL, Zanie	b. Aug 1896, IL	
c3 DEQUINPOL, Herman	b. Jun 1899, IL	

H	DEQUINPAUL, Victorien Sr.	b. 17 Aug 1876, Cuesmes	emigrated to Danville, IL, 1903
	Son of DEQUINPAUL, Alexandre/BELOT, Adolphine		married 9 Jul 1898, Cuesmes
W	WILLOCQ, Augusta Clara	b. 24 Sep 1880, Ghlin	emigrated to Danville, IL 1903
	Daughter of WILLOCQ, Adolphe Alexandre/GUICHARD, Victorine		
c1	DEQUINPAUL, Victor Jr.	b. 6 Dec 1899, Cuesmes	Danville, IL, 1903
c2	DEQUINPAUL, Odon	b. Cuesmes	Danville, IL, 1903
S	DEQUINPAUL, Zenon	b.9 Feb 1887, Cuesmes,	emigrated to Danville, IL, 1908
	son of DEQUINPAUL, Alexandre/BELOT, Adolphine		
H	DERUDDER, Desire	b. 28 Jul 1870, Cuesmes	emigrated to Danville, IL, 1902
	Son of DERUDDER, Leonard*1/LAURENT, Marie Anne *2	married 28 Jul 1894, Cuesmes; d.20 Feb 1955 - Danville, IL	
W	DELANOIS, Augustine Sidonie; b. 5 Aug 1875, Cuesmes		
	Daughter of DELANOIS, Agapide*/DIEU Philomene		
c1	DERUDDER, Marguerite	b. 23 Jul 1895, Cuesmes	married ? BAUDAUX
c2	DERUDDER, Marcel*	b. 25 Dec 1900, Cuesmes	
* Marcel DERUDDER was the first man in the USA to receive an artificial heart valve, in Houston, TX by Dr DEBAKEY. He died shortly thereafter			
*1. Leonard DERUDDER died in Louviroil, France on 6 Dec 1881			
*2. Marie Anne LAURENT died in Cuesmes on 2 mar 1878			
S	DESCAMPS, Abraham	b. Paturages	emigrated to Flager, PA, 1906
S	DESCAMPS, Isaie	b. Paturages	emigrated to Frontenac, Crawford Co. KS, 1895
H	DHAININ, Faustin	b. Paturages	emigrated to Flager, PA 1901
W	DESCAMPS, Justine	b. Paturages	emigrated to Flager, PA 1901
c1	DHAININ, Adolphe	b. Paturages	emigrated to Flager Pa 1901
c2	DHAININ, Ferdinand	b. Paturages	emigrated to Flager, PA 1901
H	DIEU, Constant	b. Cuesmes	emigrated to Danville, IL 1902
W	CROMBOIS, Adolphine	b. ca 1874, Cuesmes	emigrated to Danville, IL 1903
c1	DIEU, Agapite (?)	b. 1886, Cuesmes	emigrated to Danville, IL 1903
c2	DIEU, Adele	b. ca 1892, Cuesmes	emigrated to Danville, IL 1903
H	DIEU, Constant	b. 23 Dec 1857, Cuesmes	emigrated to Danville, IL 1900
	Son of DIEU, Jean Joseph (36)/FINET, Marie Francoise		1872 - Gemappes
W	BOITTE, Amelie Celestine	b. ca 1858 - - d.30 Dec 1915, Danville, IL	emigrated to Danville, IL in 1900
c1	DIEU, Elise	b. 27 Jan 1884, Cuesmes	emigrated to Danville, IL 1903
c2	DIEU, Agapite (Caput)	b. 21 Feb 1886, Cuesmes	married Rosa JACOBS
c3	DIEU, Alida	b. 4 May 1889, Cuesmes	emigrated to Danville, IL 1903
c4	DIEU, Amelie Adelange	b. 4 Sep 1891, Cuesmes	married #1- Marcel VIVIER*/ #2- Alphonse LETE
* Children issued from Marcel VIVIER: John & Marcel VIVIER			
H	DIEU, Emile	b. Boussu	emigrated to Mineral, Cherokee Co. KS, 1888
W	---, Julia		emigrated to Mineral, Cherokee Co. KS, 1888
S	DIEU, Jean	b. Boussu	emigrated to Chicopee, KS, 1887
H	DIEU, Pierre Joseph	b. Paturages	emigrated to Pittsburgh, PA, 1883
W	DASCOTTE, Marie		emigrated to Pittsburgh, PA, 1883
S	DIEU, Victoire	b. Cuesmes	emigrated to Danville, IL, 1902
H	DUBOIS, Andre	b. Aug 1849, Cuesmes or France	emigrated to Danville, IL, 1888
W	---, Therese January ?		emigrated to Danville, IL, 1888
c1	DUBOIS, Emmanuel Victor	b. Jan 1879	emigrated to Danville, IL 1888
c2	DUBOIS, Henri		emigrated to Danville, IL 1888
c3	DUBOIS, Emmanuel	b. Jan 1883	emigrated to Danville, IL 1888
c4	DUBOIS, Engelle	b. Apr 1890	emigrated to Danville, IL 1888
S	DUBRUL, Jean Baptiste	b. Boussu	emigrated to Chicopee, KS, 1905
H	DUEZ, Arthur	b. 11 Feb 1859, Cuesmes	
	Son of DUEZ,Donat Pierre Joseph*/FINET, Adolphine**		emigrated to Westville, IL, 1895
W	BACQ, Zelie	b. 6 Oct 1859, Cuesmes	
	Daughter of BACQ, Augustin/DONFUT, Victoire (md 21 Oct 1861, Cuesmes)		

## THANK YOU FOR REMEMBERING TO SEND IN YOUR DUES FOR 2001!

c1 DUEZ, Jules A. b. Dec 1880

c2 DUEZ, Cornelie b. Mar 1885

c3 DUEZ, Clement (Arthur) b. 9 Mar 1888, Cuesmes

c4 DUEZ, Victoire b. 21 Sep 1891, Cuesmes

\* listed as DUEZ, Donat Joseph on birth record of Arthur DUEZ/\*\* listed as FINET, Josephine on birth record of Arthur DUEZ

S DUEZ, Arthur b. Cuesmes ? emigrated to Danville, IL, 1890  
S DUEZ, Auguste emigrated to Crawford, KS, 1913

H DUEZ, Xavier b. 28 May 1844 ? emigrated to Houtzdale, PA, 1881

W FINET, Marie emigrated to Houtzdale, PA, 1881

c1 DUEZ, Adolphe buried in Clearfield, PA emigrated to Houtzdale, PA, 1881

c2 DUEZ, Joseph b. 4 Oct 1876 - d. 12 Jul 1954, Clinton, IL

c3 DUEZ, John married Victoria GERODEZ\* - buried in Clearfield, PA - \* contact Dee Yetter

H DUEZ, Louis b. Mar 1856 emigrated to Danville, IL, 1862?

W ---, Melissa

S DUEZ, Paul b. Apr 1822 emigrated to Danville, IL, 1862?

S DUFRANNE, Arthur b. Wasmes emigrated to Brazil, IN, 1905

S DUFRANNE, Jules b. Wasmes emigrated to Brazil, IN, 1897

S DUPRIENNE, Adhemar b. Wasmes emigrated to Brazil, IN, 1905

S DUPRIENNE, Gustave b. Wasmes emigrated to Brazil, IN, 1899

H FASSIAUX, Jean Baptiste b. Jemappes emigrated to Mc Cartney, PA, 1903

W BOITTE, Alida b. Jemappes emigrated to Mc Cartney, PA, 1903

c1 FASSIAUX, Ernest b. Jemappes emigrated to Mc Cartney, PA, 1903

H FASSIAUX, Joseph Alfred b. Flénu emigrated to Mc Cartney, PA, 1903

c1 FASSIAUX, Emile b. Flénu emigrated to Mc Cartney, PA, 1903

S FINET, Alfred b. Cuesmes emigrated to Danville, IL, 1905 with 4 people

S FINET, Antoine emigrated to Patton, PA, 1909

H FINET, Augustin b. 25 Sep 1875, Cuesmes

Son of FINET, Joseph/LOTTIAU, Elisa - married 5 Dec 1896, Cuesmes emigrated to Hastings, PA, 1901

W SAUCEZ, Augustine b. 30 Jan 1876, Cuesmes

Daughter of SAUCEZ, Emmanuel/PICHUEQUE, Amelie emigrated to Hastings, PA, 1901

c1 FINET, Georges Augustin b. 24 Aug 1896, Cuesmes emigrated to Hastings, PA, 1901

c2 FINET, Eva b. 11 May 1899, Cuesmes emigrated to Hastings, PA, 1901

S FINET, Cesar md to Juliette ANDRE 24 Jan 1877, Flénu emigrated to Patton, PA, 1908

H FINET, Firmin b. 16 Nov 1861 Cuesmes emigrated to IL

Son of FINET, Pierre Joseph\*1/FINET, Catherine\*2 - married 13 Mar 1886, Cuesmes

W CAMBIER, Flore 5 May 1876 Cuesmes emigrated to IL

Daughter of CAMBIER, Desire\*\*/DUPONT, Adele 13 Mar 1886 - Cuesmes

c1 FINET, Ademar b. 8 Oct 1890, Cuesmes emigrated to Danville, IL, 1908

c2 FINET, Rosine b. 4 Dec 1892, Cuesmes

c3 FINET, Bertha b. 12 Aug 1898, Cuesmes

c4 FINET, Augusta b. 24 Dec 1900, Cuesmes

\*1 Pierre Joseph FINET died in Cuesmes on 11 Dec 1884. He was the son of Augustin FINET (d 14 Nov 1873, Cuesmes) and of Angelique THIRY (d 8 Dec 1870, Cuesmes)

\*2 Catherine FINET died in Cuesmes on 13 Jun 1876. She was the daughter of Philippe FINET (d 6 Apr 1865, Cuesmes) and of Desiree LUPANT

\*\* Desire CAMBIER died in Cuesmes on 29 Apr 1869

H GAIE, Alexandre b. 28 Jun 1876, Cuesmes emigrated to Patton, PA, 1903

Son of GAIE, Bernard (33)/ANDRE, Catherine - married 2 Dec 1899, Cuesmes

W CALIN, Marie b. 16 Nov 1874, Cuesmes

Daughter of CALIN, Antoine\*/BOMBECK, Josephine

\* Antoine CALIN died in Cuesmes on 7 May 1891.

H **GAIE**, Emmanuel b. 23 Sep 1870, Cuesmes emigrated to Patton, PA, 1898  
 Son of GAIE, Bernard/ANDRE, Catherine - married 20 Jan 1894, Cuesmes

W **COLMANT**, Eva b. 13 Feb 1870, Cuesmes  
 Daughter of COLMANT, Pierre Joseph\*/GONDRY, Julie  
 \*Pierre Joseph COLMANT died in Cuesmes on 9 Jul 1872

H **GAIE**, Arthur (Nicolas) Sr. b. 30 Aug 1875, Cuesmes emigrated to Danville, IL 1903  
 Son of GAIE, Leopold (34)/FINET, Flore - married 3 Dec 1898, Cuesmes

W **FRANQUET**, Victoire b.13 Nov 1878, Cuesmes  
 Daughter of FRANQUET, Pierre Joseph/MONNIER, Leocadie emigrated to Danville, IL, 1904  
 c1 **GAIE**, Oliva (Pauline?) b.12 Jun 1899, Cuesmes emigrated to Danville, IL, 1904  
 c2 **GAIE**, Philippine Louise b. 11 Sep 1900, Cuesmes emigrated to Danville, IL, 1904  
 c3 **GAIE**, Arthur b. ca 1902, Cuesmes emigrated to Danville, IL, 1904

H **GAIE**, Xavier b. 18 Oct 1868, Cuesmes  
 Son of GAIE, Bernard/ANDRE, Catherine - married 8 Mar 1890, Cuesmes

W **TRICOT**, Felicie b. 10 Apr 1870, Cuesmes  
 Daughter of TRICOT, Desire/MONSEUX, Clemence Francoise

S **GAINVORS**, Emile Cuesmes Hastings, PA 1909

H **GERIN**, Firmin\* b. 12 Aug 1866, Cuesmes emigrated to McCartney, PA?  
 Son of GERIN, Eugene (22)/DELSAUT, Amelie married 23 Oct 1895, Cuesmes

W **GAIE**, Irma b. 9 Jun 1870, Cuesmes  
 Daughter of GAIE, Alexis\*/FINET, Rosine \*\*

\* Alexis GAIE was in America at the time of this wedding/ Firmin GERIN travelled with his famile aboard the SS Finland from Antwerp to NY arriving 28 Feb 1903

\*\* Rosine FINTER died in Cuesmes on 2 Oct 1872

H **GERIN**, (Pierre) Joseph b. 30 Jun 1864, Cuesmes - emigrated to Danville, IL 1905  
 son of GERIN, Pierre Joseph/BERNIER, Rosette married 18 May 1889, Cuesmes

W **LUPANT**, Desiree b. 24 May 1866, Cuesmes  
 Daughter of LUPANT, Alexandre/PICHUEQUE, Ortense Josephine emigrated to Danville, IL 1905  
 c1 **GERIN**, Xavier b. 8 Feb 1888, Cuesmes emigrated to Danville, IL 1905  
 c2 **GERIN**, Clemence b. 2 Feb 1890, Cuesmes - d. 14 Aug 1983, Danville, IL  
 m. 13 Mar 1907, Danville, IL to Leon HAUREZ emigrated to Danville, IL 1905  
 c3 **GERIN**, Marguerite b.ca 1904 Cuesmes emigrated to Danville, IL 1905

S **GERIN**, Pierre b. Cuesmes emigrated to Danville, IL 1904

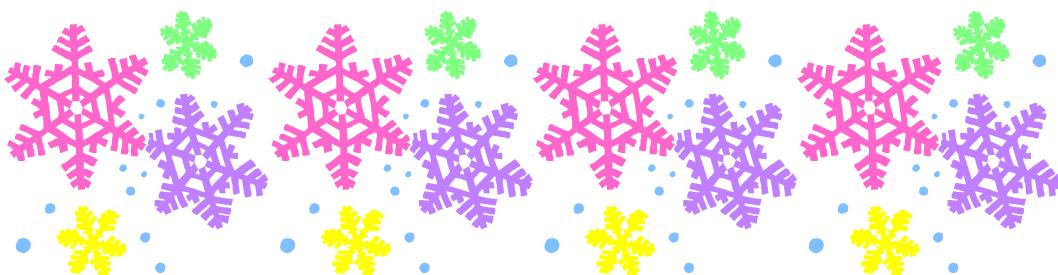
H **GERIN**, Xavier\*1 b. 26 Jul 1859, Cuesmes emigrated to Danville, IL 1905  
 Son of GERIN, Rupert\*/GODART, Celenie married 17 Oct 1883 - Cuesmes

W **GODDART**, Emilie Adolphine , b. 9 Sep 1864, Quevy-le-Petit  
 Daughter of GODDART, Edouart/URBAIN, Adolphine

c1 **GERIN**, Adolphine b.20 Jan 1892, Cuesmes  
 c2 **GERIN**, Emile Xavier b. 20 Jan 1892, Cuesmes  
 c3 **GERIN**, Leonie b. 30 Dec 1899, Cuesmes

\*1 Xavier GERIN also married Honorine FINET who died 2 Jul 1881, in Cuesmes

Rupert GERIN died in Cuesmes on 16 Apr 1866



THANK YOU FOR REMEMBERING TO SEND IN YOUR DUES FOR 2001!

## Gunmaking at Kroneborg-Hellebæk Arsenal

By Boerge FLAMAND, Denmark and Ib FLAMAND,<sup>1</sup>

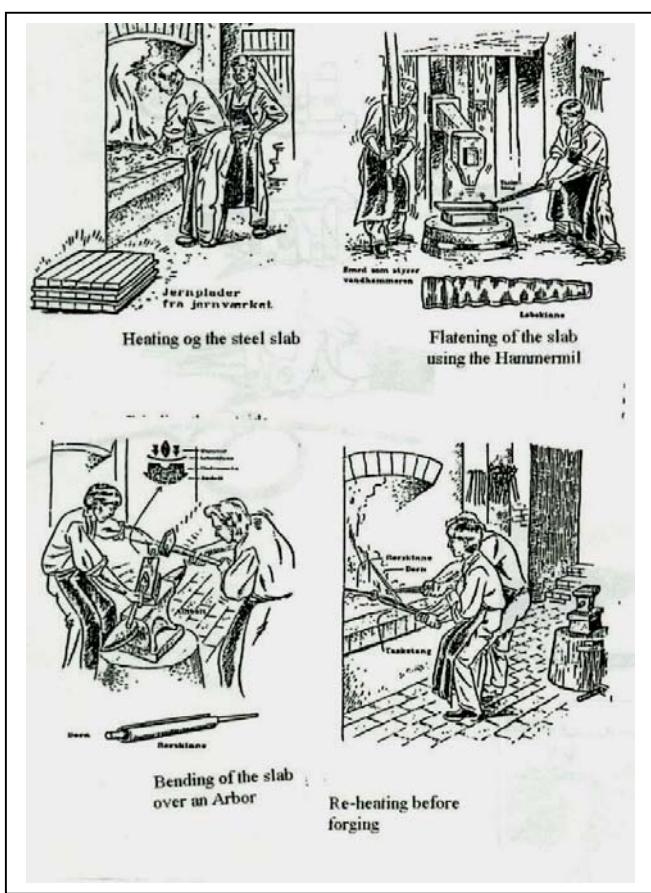
The small town of **Hellebæk** was built around 1600.

The mill was taken over by **Kroneborg Arsenal** in 1670 and made into a gun factory for whole guns and pistols.

The Danish gunsmiths were not as advanced and adept at their craft as their Belgian counterparts.

In 1672, a Belgian Proof House was founded in Liège contributing to the fame of the trade and quality of guns.

In 1769, the Kroneborg/Hellebæk Arsenal recruited Master Gunsmiths and Proofmasters from gun factories around Liège in Belgium.



Master gunsmiths had gunsmiths working for them, who in turn, trained apprentices. The Proofmasters were appointed by the King to oversee the manufacture and to test the guns and pistols for quality. In other words, they were in overall charge of the daily operation and performance of the mill.

The Belgian gunsmiths were all from the Liège area. They and their descendants became prominent gunsmiths with the Royal Guards and in private industries.

Some of the gunsmiths were:

Mathei Joseph FLAMAND, Joseph Barnabe FLERON, PIQUARD, Jacob RANCY, Corl CLOS, Nicolai de MOLINE, Wilhelm LOUA, Lorenz LOCK, Lambert JAQUET, MALHERBE, DELCOMYN and TOEQUENET.

A few women followed their husbands: Elisabeth RANCY, Catherine Margrethe CAMPEN, Paronelle LEBERGE.

The RANCY, FLERON, LOUA, CAMPEN, JACQUET and FLAMAND families intermarried over the years. Their branches to this day count numerous descendants, among whom the author of this article.

The following pedigree chart shows this relationship with the writer.

Note: as Oscar SOEREN and Emil FLAMAND had nine children and many grandchildren, the computer program used can unfortunately only follow one branch, therefore all my cousins are not listed, although they follow the same ancestral line). They were all journeyman gunsmiths, or Master gunsmiths and several of them were appointed as Probe master by the crown.

When the Arsenal closed, several of the Belgium gunsmiths were accepted into the Danish Army as regimental gunsmiths.

The following is a documented record of Johan Peder Joseph FLAMAND's service to the crown, the Dragoons and the Royal Guard.

Great effort has been made to trace the heritage and ancestors and any other relative of the foregoing mention families and we are contagiously doing so, any assistance and suggestions from unknown relative or readers are most welcome and appreciated.

<sup>1</sup> Boerge FLAMAND, Denmark, 3<sup>rd</sup> Great-grandson of Gasper FLAMAND, Liège

Ib B. FLAMAND, USA /DK, 3<sup>rd</sup> Great-grandson of Gasper FLAMAND, Liège

Régine DRIESSENS-BRINDLE, 7<sup>th</sup> Great-granddaughter of Gasper FLAMAND, USA/Liège

## The Gunmaker Johann Peter FLAMAND

By Ivar NIELSEN

About 1795 **JP FLAMAND**'s father was called to the **Hammermølle** (the Kronborg Gun Factory) at Hellebæk in North Zealand. Later, however, he was transferred to the arsenal in Randers where his son Johan Peter was born in 1809.

J.P FLAMAND was apprenticed to his father, and when the latter died in 1828, he succeeded him as gunmaker at the arsenal. About May 1833, he received a yearly 240 rixdollars state subsidy for 2 years to travel abroad; in 1834 the subsidy was extended another year. FLAMAND visited Berlin, Potzdam, Wittenberg, Prague, Vienna and Paris and returned home by way of Charleville and Liège. During his journey FLAMAND sent 11 letters to the Royal Artillery Corps.

In his first letter dated Prague March 17<sup>th</sup>, 1834, he described how he learned a method of attaching the cap of the piston but left out where he learned it. A piece of felt was placed at the end of the cartridge leaving a hole for the cap. The rim of the cardboard case of the cartridge was folded over the edge of the felt thus keeping it from being rubbed. In fixing the cap, the cartridge was pressed against the piston and thus the ball served as a counter against the pressure of the piston towards the cap. Later, in a letter from Vienna, he wrote that the Viennese gunmakers did not rise to the standard of the Prague gunmakers, which these admitted of their own volition. Yet in Vienna, FLAMAND noticed a progress he regarded as greater than the one used at home. In Vienna, the front barrel band was punched out of cold rolled iron plate and when red-hot, the hole for the ramrod was driven against a depression in the bed. After this the billet was bent and welded. At home, the barrel band was forged of iron bars. This method took more working hours, and more barrel bands burst.

On March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1834, a report from Prague told that certain parts of the Bohemian and the Austrian armies had been equipped with guns with Console's locks. A comparison of FLAMAND's letter with an article in "Militair Ugelblad" shows that the lock FLAMAND had been acquainted with, an earlier type in which both powder and priming powder (potash percussion powder) had been placed in the tube.

The advantages of this type of guns were:

- 1) It was cheap to convert flint-lock arms to this system.
- 2) The cap did not burst into pieces, which was important for shooting in close ranks.
- 3) It was easy to fasten the tube, which was also cheap to make.
- 4) The gun was moisture proof.

On November 16<sup>th</sup>, 1835, FLAMAND, in a letter from Paris, told that considerable progress had been made in the manufacture of military firearms, but he had been refused permission to visit the works. Next he described the underhammer lock which had, according to the letter, just appeared at that time. On this lock the hammer was released by pressure on the trigger guard. The cock and trigger were affixed to a solid bridle that could be seen from without. During his voyage abroad, FLAMAND, worked for by A. KEHLNER and A. LEBEDA in Prague and Perin LEPAGE in Paris.

On August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1837, he was transferred from his post in Randers and joined the combined regiment of the Guards' Hussars and the Horse Guards. October 13<sup>th</sup>, 1837, he married Miss M.K.SKOV, born in 1812 in Randers and moved to Jægersborg near Copenhagen.

On May 9<sup>th</sup>, 1839, he applied for a monopoly to manufacture a sporting gun with two super-imposed shots in the same barrel and only one trigger. The application papers show there was some doubt as to the expediency of manufacturing but also as to the shooter's safety. Still, he was granted an 8y-monopoly.

FLAMAND took part in the 1848-1850 Danish-German W and belonged to a sub-committee of the "Artillery and Construction Board". In this capacity he built a back sight that was later used on the pillar-breech carbine Pattern 1848 of which 700 copies were brought from Suhl.

In 1850 he was decorated with the 20y Good Conduct Badge. In January 1855 he transferred to the Line Battalion of the Royal Foot Guards and moved to Østervold 492. In 1861, he moved to Nørrevold 114 (both places in Copenhagen).

In November 1863 he was appointed master controller at the Kronborg Gun Factory and kept the position until his death on November 24<sup>th</sup>, 1864. His son-in-law Johan Frederick HERFUTH (son of one of Joseph Barnabe FLERON's daughter, who had emigrated to Hellebæk with FLAMAND's father) succeeded him

Johann Peter FLAMAND also created the personal arms of King Christian IX of Denmark, and a pair of needle pistols now on display in the Tøjhsmuseum.

### **Sources:**

"Liège, a Firearm Tradition"; Tøjhøset, Arms Museum Copenhagen; Hellebæk Aalsgaard Egnshistorie Froening Godvin Hansem historian, Denmark; The Flamand family record "from Whence You Came"

THANK YOU FOR REMEMBERING TO SEND IN YOUR DUES FOR 2001!

## Descendants of Gasper FLAMAND

1. Gasper FLAMAND (b.1718-Heuseux Liege Belgium; d.28 Mar 1780-Heuseux, Liège, Belgium)  
sp: Anne Catherine MOINEAUX (b.1722-Heuseux, Liège, Belgium)
2. Mathieu Joseph FLAMAND (b.1757-Heuseux, Liège, Belgium; d.1828-Randers)
  3. Anne Marie Josephine FLAMAND (b.1805)  
sp: Morten Jensen POULSEN
    4. Minna POULSEN
    4. Mathaeus POULSEN
    4. Friter POULSEN
      5. Agnes POULSEN  
sp: Christian CHRISTIANSEN
      5. Emil POULSEN
    4. Johanne POULSEN
    4. Anne Marie POULSEN  
sp: Edward POULSEN
      5. Morten POULSEN
      5. Margrethe POULSEN
      5. Josephine POULSEN
      5. Olga Marne Cecillie POULSEN (b.1883)  
sp: Hans Christian Otto JENSEN  
sp: Johanne JENSDATTER (b.1770; d.23 Jul 1835-Randers)
  3. Joahan Peder Joseph FLAMAND (b.25 Jun 1809-Randers; d.24 Nov 1864-Hellebæk)  
sp: Mette Kirstine SKOV (b.24 Feb 1812; d.24 Mar 1899-Hellebæk)
    4. Johann Marie Frederikke FLAMAND (b.5 Dec 1837-Randers; d.5 May 1915-Copenhagen)  
sp: Johan Frederik HERFURTH (b.17 Dec 1826-Hellebæk; d.10 Feb 1903-Copenhagen)
      5. Frederik Flamand HERFURTH (b.31 Jan 1868)
      5. Elisabeth Kirstine HERFURTH (b.22 Jun 1869;d.8 Feb 1934)
      5. Carlaage HERFURTH (b.23 Jan 1871)  
sp: Ellen ROSENQUIST (b.5 Sep 1878;m.17 Jan 1903)
    4. Josephine FLAMAND (b.12 Dec 1840-Jægersborg; d.19 Feb 1878-Copenhagen)
    4. Vilhelm Joseph Nobertus FLAMAND (b.6 Jun 1843-Jægersborg; d.17 Aug 1878-Copenhagen)
    4. Juliane Fanny Nathalie FLAMAND (b.19 Mar 1847-Copenhagen; d.26 Apr 1933-Sakskøbing)  
sp: Peter WICHMAND (b.6 Mar 1843-Sakskøbing; d.1 Jan 1906-Sakskøbing)
    4. Julius Charles Louis FLAMAND (b.13 Nov 1849-Copenhagen; d.7 Dec 1910-Odense)  
sp: Elise MATHIESEN (b.27 Jan 1854-Hellebæk)
    4. Emma Charlotte Eulalia FLAMAND (b.12 Feb 1852-Copenhagen)
    4. Oskar Soeren Emil FLAMAND (b.14 Aug 1854-Copenhagen; d.10 Oct 1936-Copenhagen)  
sp: Frederikke Beathe LAURITZEN (b.8 Mar 1856-Kalundborg; m.11 Nov 1876; d.2 Feb 1921,Copenhagen)
      5. Ingeborg FLAMAND (b.30 Jan 1877-Copenhagen)  
sp: Niels Christian CHRISTENSEN (b.7 Feb 1867-Sødinge, Ringe; m.28 Nov 1902; d.13 Mar 1939)
      5. Poul FLAMAND (b.17 Aug 1878,Odense; d.1 Aug 1955- Florida, USA  
sp: Cecilie-209 (b.4 Jun 1891)  
sp: Ida WAIDECK (b.23 Jan 1878-Copenhagen; m.1906; d.18 Dec 1912-Philadelphia)
      5. Elisabeth FLAMAND (b.6 Jul 1880-Odense; d.19 Oct 1975-Copenhagen)  
sp: Peder Rudolph LYKKEBERG (b.11 Feb 1878-Skanderborg; m.10 May 1906; d.23 Dec 1944-)
      5. Otto FLAMAND (b.23 May 1882-Odense)  
sp: Mette Marie OLSEN (b.18 Apr 1886-Manstrup,Bejstrup; m.5 Nov 1909)
      5. Svend FLAMAND (b.1 Oct 1883-Odense)  
sp: Dagmar Marie Kristine JOHANSEN (b.6 Sep 1882; m.25 Nov 1910)
      5. Knud FLAMAND (b.25 Jun 1887-Odense)  
sp: Elsie BLAKE (b.16 Jun 1887-Philadelphia; d. Apr 1942-Lancaster)
      - sp: Ruth KAUFFMAN (b.17 Jun 1908-Enola,Pennsylvania; m.27 Sep 1942)
      5. Karen FLAMAND (b.19 Aug 1889-Odense)  
sp: Magnus Emil LYAGER (b.19 Feb 1889-Hvorslev; m.14 Jul 1915)
      5. Holger FLAMAND (b.1 Nov 1891-Copenhagen; d.29 Apr 1947-Copenhagen)  
sp: Anna NOERSKOV (b.1 May 1887-Brædstrup,Ringe Jylland; m.30 May 1914; d. Jul 1960)

5. Ellen FLAMAND (b.25 Feb 1894; d.26 Dec 1983)  
sp: Mario Lauritz FLODING (b.11 Dec 1886-Copenhagen; m.25 Jun 1915; d.21 Nov 1959)

3. Ane Marie Josephine FLAMAND (b.1805) \*\*see above\*\*

2. Joanna Lucie FLAMAND (b.1753-Heuseux, Liège, Belgium)  
sp: Lambert BARTHOLOME (b.1749-Cerexhe-Heuseux Liège, Belgium; m.28 Jan 1776)

3. Hubert Joseph BARTHOLOME (b.1776)

3. Jeanne Josepha BARTHOLOME (b.1786-Heuseux, Liège, Belgium)  
sp: Jean Josephi LEMAIRE (b.1787-Saive, Liège, Belgium; m.7 Oct 1810)

4. Marguarita Josepha LEMAIRE (b.1816-Saive, Liège, Belgium)

4. Catharina Josepha LEMAIRE (b.1818-Saive, Liège, Belgium)

4. Dionysius LEMAIRE (b.1821-Saive, Liège, Belgium)

4. Anna Marie LEMAIRE (b.1809-Saive, Liège, Belgium; d.5 Oct 1822)

4. Antoine Joseph LEMAIRE (b.8 May 1828-Saive, Liège, Belgium)

4. Toussaint LEMAIRE (b.27 Jan 1832)

4. Jeanne LEMAIRE (b.22 May 1813)  
sp: Servais Joseph LEDENT (m.21 Nov 1839)

5. Marie Catherine LEDENT (b.14 Sep 1841-Cheratte, Liège, Belgium)

5. Marie Jeanne LEDENT (b.19 Oct 1843-Cheratte, Liège, Belgium)

5. Marguerite Joseph Louise LEDENT (b.24 Aug 1845-Cerexhe-Heuseux, Liège, Belgium; d.7 Jan 1847)

5. Catherine LEDENT (b.1 Oct 1847-Cheratte, Liège, Belgium; d.30 Dec 1848)

5. Geraldine Joseph LEDENT (b.18 Nov 1848-Cheratte, Liège, Belgium; d.28 Aug 1907-Barchon Liège Belgium)  
sp: Clement Joseph Theodore LEVEQUE (m.8 Jun 1878)

5. Elisabeth LEDENT (b.22 Jul 1850-Cerexhe-Heuseux, Liège, Belgium)

5. Clementine Joseph LEDENT (b.15 Jan 1852-Cheratte, Liège, Belgium)

5. Noel Joseph LEDENT (b.15 Jan 1852)

2. Jean FLAMAND (b.1754)

2. Marie Agnes FLAMAND (b.1760)

2. Gasper FLAMAND (b.1774)

2. Gasper FLAMAND (b.1762)

2. Marguerite FLAMAND (b.1765)

2. Marie Ida FLAMAND (b.1768)



## THANK YOU FOR REMEMBERING TO SEND IN YOUR DUES FOR 2001!

DECLARATIONS OF INTENTION — BROWN COUNTY, WISCONSIN - (a continuing series)

by Mary Ann DEFNET, Green Bay, Wisconsin

This series began with the listing of those Belgian immigrants who declared their intention to become a citizen of the United States in 1853 - that being the first year of arrival in northeastern Wisconsin. At that time the only Court House was located in Green Bay, Brown County. As other counties and Circuit Courts were established, the number of people applying for citizenship in Brown County diminished. There were, however, still a substantial number of Belgians coming into the area during the 1870's and 1880's. These people, as well as earlier immigrants, wanted to establish themselves as citizens of America.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Birth Year</u>	<u>Port</u>	<u>Arrival</u>	<u>Declaration</u>
Denis BINON	1821	New York	June 1871	1 Nov 1872
Pierre BESANCON	1827	Green Bay	Apr 1871	5 Nov 1872
Joseph BONNET	1854	Detroit	Apr 1869	2 Apr 1872
Honoré J. BOURGUIGNON	1827	New York	Aug 1872	5 Nov 1872
Antoine BUIS	1823	Detroit	Aug 1871	2 Apr 1872
Franciscus BUYS	1837	New York	Aug 1871	15 Apr 1872
Pieter CABO	1836	New York	Apr 1864	29 Mar 1872
Frank CATHERSAL (QUATRESOL/QUATSOE)	1850	Green Bay	July 1854	4 Nov 1872
Ferdinand DANDOY	1841	Green Bay	July 1871	5 Nov 1872
Pierre DEBRULE	1828	Boston	Sept 1871	8 Nov 1872
Peter DE KELVER	1812	New York	Aug 1855	April 1872
F.DE COCK	1846	Green Bay	June 1871	5 Nov 1872
Fredrick DELANG	1843	New York	Aug 1871	29 Mar 1872
Amand DELTOUR	1850	Detroit	Sept 1871	21 Mar 1872
Auguste DELTOUR	1840	Detroit	Sept 1871	21 Mar 1872
J.B. DELTOUR	1847	Detroit	Sept 1871	2 Apr 1872
Henry DESWART	1848	New York	Oct 1871	4 Nov 1872
B. DETIENNE	1840	Detroit	Aug 1871	2 Apr 1872
Victor DETIENNE	1845	Detroit	Aug 1871	2 Apr 1872
Emile DOLHEN L	18?	New York	June 1871	14 Oct 1872
Antoine DRAYE	1818	New York	Aug 1872	8 Nov 1872
Jacques DRAYE	1825	New York	Aug 1872	5 Nov 1872
Martin DRAYE	1844	New York	Aug 1872	5 Nov 1872
Victor DUBOIS	1840	Chicago	July 1870	22 July 1872
Theophile DUCHATEAU	1848	New York	Sept 1855	12 Mar 1872
Antoine DUPONT	1836	Detroit	Jan 1871	2 Apr 1872
J.B. DUPONT	1832	New York	Jan 1871	5 Nov 1872
Manuel DUPONT	1824	Green Bay	Mar 1871	2 Apr 1872
Charles ENGELS	1842	New York	Oct 1871	4 Nov 1872
Joachim FALQUE	1831	Milwaukee	May 1871	1 Apr 1872
Charley FINAT	1838	New York	Feb 1868	4 Nov 1872
Jean Joseph Julien FRAIKEN	1829	New York	May 1871	12 Aug 1872
John FRANSSENS	1848	New York	Sept 1868	22 July 1872
Francois FRISK (FRISQUE)	1836	New York	July 1870	2 Apr 1872
Gustave FIOILLE	1831	Green Bay	June 1871	1 Nov 1872
Egidius GOOSENS	1815	New York	May 1871	29 Mar 1872
Thomas Jos. GRIETENS	1830	New York	Aug 1872	5 Nov 1872
Justillien HERBINEAUX	1845	New York	June 1856	1 Nov 1872
Joseph HALLOGNE (HALLOIN)	1825	New York	Apr 1870	5 Nov 1872
Francis HORCKMANS	1835	Boston	Aug 1869	3 Oct 1872
Theophile KAYE	1848	Green Bay	1871	5 Nov 1872
Maximilien Desire LA CROIX	1820	New York	May 1871	4 Nov 1872
Ferdinand LAMBERT	1812	Boston	Aug 1870	5 Nov 1872
Noel LANCELLE	1833	New York	Dec 1870	28 Mar 1872
Frederic LEMPEREUR	1835	New York	June 1870	18 Nov 1872
Hubert LEROY	1834	New York	June 1871	5 Nov 1872

Auguste LIESSE	1822	Detroit	Aug 1871	2 Apr 1872
Guillaume MEERT	1848	New York	Oct 1871	4 Nov 1872
Eugene NEMRY	1834	Green Bay	July 1872	5 Nov 1872
Constant NOEL	1846	New York	Sept 1870	2 Apr 1872
Joseph NOEL	1843	New York	Sept 1870	2 Apr 1872
Martin NOEL	1807	New York	Aug 1870	1 Apr 1872
Wilhelm NYS	1840	New York	Aug 1871	1 Nov 1872
Joseph PIERARD	1831	Port land	Apr 1870	5 Nov 1872
Theophile POTIER	1850	New York	Apr 1871	22 July 1872
Gustave RADELET	1830	Detroit	Apr 1870	5 Nov 1872
Antoine RENTER	1851	Detroit	June 1871	1 Apr 1872
Charles ROLAIN	1837	New York	June 1871	1 Nov 1872
Ernest SERVOTTE	1856	New York	Feb 1856	2 Apr 1872
Antoine SIMON	1830	Green Bay	June 1871	1 Nov 1872
Philip SIMON	1847	Detroit	July 1872	13 Nov 1872
Joseph SMET	1848	New York	Dec 1870	4 Nov 1872
Ferdinand SMET	1831	New York	Sept 1870	26 Oct 1872
Celestine STEVAUX	1837	Green Bay	May 1872	5 Nov 1872
Pascal THIRIONET	1831	New York	Nov 1869	2 Apr 1872
Felix TICE	1850	New York	Sept 1855	2 Apr 1872
C.TILLARD	1812	New York	May 1871	28 Oct 1872
Ferdinand TUYLS	1836	New York	July 1866	1 Nov 1872
Louis VANDE CASTEELE	1826	New York	June 1867	1 Nov 1872
Hendrik VAN DEN PLAS	1835	New York	Aug 1871	4 Nov 1872
Henry VAN DEUREN	1822	New York	Aug 1861	1 Apr 1872
Ed VAN ENGELE	1846	New York	Mar 1870	29 Mar 1872
Joseph VAN HEURTK	1838	Chicago	May 1866	S Mar 1872
Leopold VANQUEKELBERGHE	1830	New York	Mar __	2 Nov 1872
Francis VAN VLASSELAAR	1857	New York	May 1866	2 Nov 1872
Henry VONCKX	1849	New York	Apr 1867	27 Mar 1872
Hubert VERSIN	1829	New York	Oct 1855	23 Mar 1872
Henry VAN PUT	1835	New York	Sept 1868	5 Nov 1872
John Bapt. WEYS	1833	New York	May 1871	22 July 1872
Engelbertus WILLEMS	1840	New York	Aug 1871	31 Oct 1872
Florent WILLIQUET	1837	Green Bay	Aug 1869	4 Nov 1872
Jean Pierre BERTRAND	1819	Detroit	Aug 1872	2 Sept 1873
Felicien DECOCK	1846	Green Bay	June 1871	5 Nov 1873
Sylvain EVRARD	1850	New York	Dec 1854	13 May 1873
Alfred GASPART	1853	New York	Sept 1858	28 Mar 1873
Thelesphore POTIER	1854	Green Bay	June 1872	21 Apr 1873
Joseph THOUNE	1840	New York	Sept 1858	28 Mar 1873

### The Role of Women, Wives and Mothers.

Excerpt from "Arlonais, Fondateurs de Belgium-Wisconsin" by Jean DUCAT, Biesmes, Belgium  
Translated by Régine Brindle

According to the census available to us, we note that many wives became widows very young. As it was the case of the Walloon colony in Green Bay, we suppose that the husbands must have died prematurely because of a poor resistance to disease due to the lack of adjusting their diet and to the enormous efforts needed to clear the land. The great majority of these women were women of great courage.

It was not unusual for women to cut short their time with household chores so they could shoulder other responsibilities outside the home. To preserve the remarkable work of her ancestors, Beatrice WESTER-KRIER dedicated 3 pages, filled with moving simplicity, in her book, " Tapestry of Luxembourgers ". We would like to reprint the translation of the lines that concern household chores, even though what she says may seem insignificant. Through her sa description, we imagine the amount of ingenuity spent to make bearable the lack of comfort of the early years. With simple words, she tell the daily life of these

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women who left modest yet comfortable homes and found themselves thrown into a fight for the life of their loved ones but also their own.

Let's listen to her words,

"... to survive the first winter, they had to use their ingenuity to protect the food storage from the rodents and other dangers. During Spring, each family dug up a vegetable garden, sowed, planted, kept up and harvested.

To the vegetable seeds brought from Europe were added those of local vegetables. They built cellars to keep potatoes and carrots. Ripe tomatoes were eaten immediately while the green ones finished ripening in the stables thanks to the heat generated by the animals. Cabbage was served with all sorts of sauces while onion was used to flavor other foods.

Boys were in charge of keeping the fires alive in the open hearth and for the cooking ovens by throwing in dry wood.

Wild berries decorated cakes. Apples became apple paste dried in the sun and fruit juices were turned into jams and jellies.

Beans were the basic element of a variety of every day soups. Milk was made into butter and delicious cheese. Dry goods such as flour, sugar and salt were bought in large quantities and were stored in metal containers. The different sacks were recycled, washed, bleached and turned into clothes and bedcovers.

In due time, the homemakers acquire several irons which sped up the work rhythm or kept from turning the linen red. Clothes were first made by hand then by sewing machine after it was invented. Women knitted, crocheted; young women prepared their trunk(?). Patterns were exchanged or copied or spread at meetings organized at this or that neighbor's house. The gathering room, called "place-de-devant" like in the Old Country was filled with feminine voices and laughter at the sound of the latest funny settlement stories.

Pillow cases, pillows and mattresses were filled with feathers or March straw were aired regularly. Breads, 'couques' and pies were baked in an outdoor oven; every homemaker knew the particularities of her own wood stove.

Hens were kept for a year for the eggs then were fattened up for the cooking pot as were the chicks. Pork, veal, and beef were smoked, salted, or made into sausage. Smokehouses used preferably maple or cherry woodchips.

Mothers taught their daughters to become accomplished and thrifty homemakers.

Brought from the village of origin, culinary art was passed down for about 75 years and more after the foundation of the colony.

With their husbands, these wives raised large families. After the evening meal, nobody tarried to take a well deserved rest and so lived up to the old adage: "Early to bed, early to rise, that is the best way to be of good health both in body and spirit but also to make one's fortune".

Only illness or death marked a stop in the life of the worker.

That is the type of exemplary life that was practiced by my intrepid forebears as well as the prosperous settlement called Belgium.

B. WK."



## Nethen Marriage Index - 1797-1860 (Part 5 -Backwards) - Régine Brindle

Debruel, Maximilien/Delestine, Marie A.	Sep. 17, 1859	Deltour, Egidius/Decerf, Catherine	Aug. 4, 1789
Debruele, Pierre/Anciaux, Rosalie	Aug. 30, 1856	Deltour, Ernesto/Plompteur, Marie F.	May 3, 1791
DeBruelle, Jean B./Bourguignon, Marie J.	May 4, 1820	Deltour, Jean G./Poreaux, Marie T.	Oct. 7, 1787
Debrule, Pierre A./Baudet, Catherine	1800	Deltour, Joannes G./Rose, Catherine	Mar. 3, 1733/34
Debrule, Pierre A./Draye, Jeanne M.	Jan. 18, 1821	Delvaux, Gustave J./Moisse, Philomene	May 14, 1870
Debrule, Pierre A./Snaps, Marie T.	Jan. 10, 1851	Delvaux, Henri/Draije, Rosalie	Jan. 7, 1854
Debrule, Pierre J./Girre, Marie J.	Jan. 16, 1828	Delvaux, Jean B./Anciaux, Marie T.	Oct. 30, 1812
Decommink, Jean P./Rondou, Marie J.	Aug. 23, 1856	Delvaux, Jean B./Falize, Marie J.	Sep. 15, 1827
Degelde, Henri J./Falise, Marie C.	Sep. 21, 1834	Delvaux, Jean B./Gosseau, Marie J.	Jun. 24, 1806
Dekeijser, Guillaume/Vincent, Marie T.	Jan. 19, 1859	Demarez, Jean B./Ronsmans, Marie L.	Jun. 20, 1857
Dekeyser, Nicolas J./Ronsmans, Felicite	Jun. 5, 1857	Demoulin, Jean J./Hoslet, Marie T.	Feb. 10, 1861
Delestinne, Martin/Paye, Jeanne	May 26, 1821	Denis, Michel J./Rose, Marie R.	Nov. 24, 1858
Deleve, Jean J./Lycoppe, Marie V.	Apr. 29, 1840	Depauw, Joseph O./Volt, Jeanne	Feb. 6, 1840
Deleve, Maximilien/Verhulst, Natalie	Oct. 10, 1866	Depauwe, Jean J./Vandenplas, Anne J.	Aug. 22, 1838
Deltour, Anthonii/Jamin, Marie T.	Jan. 21, 1764	Desambre, Jean B./Manquoij, Marie L.	Jan. 22, 1840
Deltour, Anthonii/Quermeau, Jeanne M.	Jan. 25, 1758	Detiege, Henry/Socquet, Anne	1802

<b>Detiege</b> , Jean B./Draije, Marie R.	Oct. 5, 1842	<b>Dubois</b> , Louis J./Socquet, Natalie	Nov. 24, 1858
<b>Detiege</b> , Nicolas J./Matthieu, Elisabeth	1802	<b>Dumont</b> , Romain D./Dassy, Marie C.	Sep. 13, 1860
<b>Detry</b> , Jean J./Vanderlinden, Marie J.	Jul.22, 1821	<b>Duquaine</b> , Jean B./Manquoij, Marie L.	Jul.1851
<b>Detry</b> , Martin/Vanderlinden, Marie L.	Oct. 23, 1819	<b>Facque</b> , Antoine J./Magosse, Marie F.	Sep. 13, 1837
<b>Deveen</b> , Egide V./Ronsmans, Marie E.	Feb. 07, 1861	<b>Faignet</b> , Guillaume J./Gillard, Marie T.	Feb. 02, 1859
<b>Dezonne</b> , Jean B./Leurquin, Anne	Dec. 28, 1820	<b>Falise</b> , David/Grietens, Marie R.	Apr. 25, 1857
<b>Dimiaux</b> , Jean B./Ballieux, Marie J.	Feb. 1852	<b>Falise</b> , Jacques/Gillard, Marie C.	Aug. 06, 1823
<b>Dimiaux</b> , Jean B./Ballieux, Marie J.	Sep. 06, 1853	<b>Falise</b> , Jean/Anciaux, Marie T.	Jan. 20, 1819
<b>Dimiaux</b> , Joseph/Crabbe, Anne C.	Dec. 27, 1822	<b>Falise</b> , Jean J./Debruel, Marie T.	Aug. 19, 1848
<b>Dimiaux</b> , Joseph/Godefroid, Marie B.	Dec. 06, 1813	<b>Falise</b> , Jean J./Pensis, Marie T.	Jun. 18, 1835
<b>Dimiaux</b> , Philippe E./Manquoij, Marie A.	May 19, 1848	<b>Falise</b> , Louis/Buelens, Colette	Sep. 1852
<b>Dimiaux</b> , Joseph/Draye, Elisabeth	1801	<b>Falise</b> , Melchior/Page, Marie J.	Apr. 17, 1860
<b>Draije</b> , Alexandre/Licoppe, Rosalie	Apr. 30, 1864	<b>Ferdinand</b> , Jean P./Albert, Marie F.	Oct. 15, 1806
<b>Draije</b> , Alexis/Rose, Marie T.	Jun. 13, 1868	<b>Ferdinand</b> , Jean P./Deweze, Marie T.	Oct. 27, 1818
<b>Draije</b> , Antoine/Bourguignon, Marie T.	Jul. 10, 1854	<b>Fievez</b> , Jacques/Gillain, Octavie J.	Sep. 19, 1853
<b>Draije</b> , Antoine/Debruel, Marie T.	Oct. 18, 1845	<b>Fincoeur</b> , Guillaume/Verheijden, Marie T.	Sep. 17, 1853
<b>Draije</b> , Benoni J./Page, Marie J.	Sep. 17, 1859	<b>Fincoeur</b> , Jean B./Bidoul, Marie S.	Oct. 07, 1869
<b>Draije</b> , Casimir/Snaps, Marie J.	Nov. 12, 1836	<b>Fincoeur</b> , Jean H./Peigneur, Claire	May 11, 1820
<b>Draije</b> , George/Rose, Philomene	Apr. 10, 1864	<b>Fincoeur</b> , Pierre J./Gillart, Marie J.	Feb. 15, 1851
<b>Draije</b> , George/Vramboudt, Melanie E.	May 03, 1862	<b>Flemal</b> , Andre J./Flemal, Anne C.	May 11, 1809
<b>Draije</b> , Jacques/Snaps, Marie I.	Jan. 06, 1838	<b>Flemalle</b> , Benoit A./Pensis, Marie C.	Dec. 30, 1870
<b>Draije</b> , Jean B./Gillain, Marie E.	Jan.07, 1866	<b>Francar</b> , Henri J./Hela, Marie J.	Mar. 1824
<b>Draije</b> , Jean B./Maricq, Marie C.	Mar. 13, 1847	<b>Francart</b> , Ferdinand J./Moisse, Prudence A.	May 03, 1848
<b>Draije</b> , Jean F./Godefroid, Marie J.	Sep. 04, 1847	<b>Francart</b> , Louis J./Godefroid, Beatrice	Dec. 06, 1857
<b>Draije</b> , Jean J./Vincent, Josephine	Sep. 18, 1858	<b>Francart</b> , Louis J./Godefroid, Rosalie J.	Nov. 27, 1850
<b>Draije</b> , Jean J./Hallaux, Marie L.	Aug. 14, 1865	<b>Francart</b> , Petrus/Dalcque, Joanna M.	Feb. 24, 1789
<b>Draije</b> , Jean J./Martin, Charlotte	Feb.12, 1868	<b>Frix</b> , Pierre/Manquoij, Jeanne	1805
<b>Draije</b> , Jean J./Pensis, Marie T.	Jan. 19, 1850	<b>Gamain</b> , Corentin P./Anciaux, Felicite	May 29, 1855
<b>Draije</b> , Jean J./Thielemans, Henriette	Nov. 11, 1839	<b>Gasthuys</b> , Jean J./Moisse, Marie J.	May 09, 1814
<b>Draije</b> , Jean P./Ronsmans, Anne M.	1802	<b>Gatij</b> , Alexis/Houillet, Marie T.	Feb. 04, 1835
<b>Draije</b> , Leopold/Vincent, Marie A.	Dec. 30, 1865	<b>Gauchir</b> , Victor J./Snaps, Marie T.	Sep. 16, 1865
<b>Draije</b> , Louis J./Paije, Marie R.	Aug. 04, 1845	<b>Genere</b> , Louis/Freson, Pelagie J.	May 23, 1826
<b>Draije</b> , Martin/Loise, Marie C.	Jul.13, 1863	<b>Gennar</b> , Henri/Botton, Anne M.	Jan. 09, 1834
<b>Draije</b> , Norbert/Manquoij, Adolphine	Dec. 02, 1865	<b>Geyssens</b> , Jean F./Cesar, Marie P.	Apr. 22, 1841
<b>Draije</b> , Philippe/Dassij, Marie L.	Apr. 27, 1843	<b>Geyssens</b> , Pierre J./Socquet, Delphine	Feb. 24, 1868
<b>Draije</b> , Philippe/Moise, Maximilienne	Sep. 16, 1865	<b>Gijre</b> , Felicien/Draije, Veronique	Dec. 06, 1866
<b>Draije</b> , Pierre/Licoppe, Anne M.	1801	<b>Gijre</b> , Martin/Snaps, Marie C.	Apr. 30, 1837
<b>Draye</b> , Adrien/Botton, Marie T.	Apr. 29, 1806	<b>Gijre</b> , Pierre J./Vandergeete, Josephine	Oct. 06, 1866
<b>Draye</b> , Antoine/Tilliard, Elisabeth	May 27, 1753	<b>Gijre</b> , Victor/Malcorps, Josephine	Sep. 29, 1866
<b>Draye</b> , Constant/Bourguignon, Philomene	Jun. 23, 1861	<b>Gillaire</b> , Jean P./Vincent, Marie A.	1802
<b>Draye</b> , Desire/Rose, Marie J.	May 03, 1861	<b>Gillard</b> , Henri/Detry, Marie C.	Nov. 27, 1817
<b>Draye</b> , Guillaume/Manquoij, Angelique	Oct. 10, 1846	<b>Gillard</b> , Henri/Draije, Rosalie	Sep. 18, 1858
<b>Draye</b> , Jacques/Mottard, Jeanne J.	Jun. 13, 1806	<b>Gillard</b> , Jacques/Grietens, Catherine	Jan. 25, 1843
<b>Draye</b> , Jaque/Manquoij, Catherine	Jun.12, 1812	<b>Gillard</b> , Jean D./Volt, Marie A.	Dec. 17, 1868
<b>Draye</b> , Jean B./Vanderlinden, Jeanne M.	Sep. 23, 1827	<b>Gillard</b> , Jean P./Robert, Marie T.	Oct. 05, 1828
<b>Draye</b> , Jean F./Pirotte, Marie J.	Feb. 15, 1848	<b>Gillard</b> , Nicolas/Draije, Elisabeth	Apr. 02, 1837
<b>Draye</b> , Jean J./Botton, Victoire	May 01, 1815	<b>Gillard</b> , Pierre/Baudet, Marie E.	Jun. 07, 1789
<b>Draye</b> , Jean J./Casar, Marie R.	Jul. 17, 1820	<b>Gillard</b> , Pierre/Servais, Marie J.	Oct. 04, 1828
<b>Draye</b> , Jean J./Clabots, Marie E.	Aug. 05, 1832	<b>Gillard</b> , Pierre J./Blaise, Josephine	Jun. 25, 1851
<b>Draye</b> , Jean P./Paije, Marie T.	Apr.30, 1853	<b>Gillard</b> , Pierre J./Vandenplas, Jeanne M.	May 31, 1855
<b>Draye</b> , Jean P./Verhulst, Marie L.	Dec. 27, 1815	<b>Gillard</b> , Theodore/Lecocq, Josephine	Dec. 12, 1866
<b>Draye</b> , Nicolas/Casart, Anne J.	Sep. 02, 1824	<b>Gillart</b> , Francois/Vandestrat, Jeanne T.	Apr. 17, 1744
<b>Draye</b> , Pantaleon/Anciaux, Mathilde	Feb. 05, 1862	<b>Gillart</b> , Guillaume/Licoppe, Marie R.	1803
<b>Draye</b> , Pantaleon/Grietens, Josephine A.	Jul. 09, 1870	<b>Gillart</b> , Guillemin/Maheville, Therese	Nov. 14, 1747
<b>Draye</b> , Pierre/Delvaux, Anne M.	Jun. 16, 1806	<b>Gillart</b> , Jean A./Manquoij, Marie L.	Jul. 13, 1845
<b>Draye</b> , Pierre J./DeGuelde, Elise R.	Jan. 12, 1851	<b>Gillis</b> , Francois X./Bourbonville, Delphine	Aug. 17, 1861
<b>Draye</b> , Pierre J./Ronsmans, Marie L.	Nov. 01, 1851	<b>Gillis</b> , Jacques C./Vincent, Marie J.	May 22, 1834
<b>Draye</b> , Pierre J./Vanderlinden, Anne M.	Sep. 02, 1820	<b>Gillis</b> , Louis C./Vangrunderbeck, Marie T.	May 25, 1867

## THANK YOU FOR REMEMBERING TO SEND IN YOUR DUES FOR 2001!

**The Belgian-American Janitors Club - The Belgian-American Club of Chicago**

By Georges Picavet, Kruibeke, Belgium

This article is not the full story of the BACC. It is intended as an introduction, and an invitation to the BL readers to exchange information about the Club members.

**History****Constitution**

"In 1914 about twenty Belgians get together for a New Years Eve party and at that party it was decided they would get together once every month. This gathering at first was called a coffee clutch but soon it became more organized and officers were elected and it became a club eventually to be known as Belgian American Janitor Club."

This is how Joe Herman describes the origins of the Belgian-American Janitors Club, later to become the Belgian-American Club of Chicago.

The Belgian-American Janitors Club, Inc. was originally founded in July 1915,

1. to promote the social and material welfare of its members, aid them in becoming citizens of the United States and teach them the ideals and customs of this country.
2. To aid members in distress and, if possible, give assistance to charitable institutions.
3. To sustain our treasury through monthly contributions and to give the members and their families a Death Benefit, sustained by special assessments.

The prospective member should be a "union janitor or ex-janitor of Belgian nationality or descent", and apply to become an American citizen at his earliest opportunity. A candidate of another nationality was only acceptable if he was married to a woman of Belgian nationality or descent.

The By-Laws were first revised in January 1946, then in June 1948 and finally in April 1960. Although the principles remained basically unchanged, the membership had been opened to anyone who, "at his earliest opportunity, make application to become an American citizen, if he is not already a citizen". This implies that, as from 1960, also other nationalities could become member of the BACC, but also that one had no longer to be a janitor, and that also women could join.

The By-Laws of 1948 also confirm that the name change into Belgian American Club of Chicago.

The Club was wound up by its remaining members in January 1998.

**Application****Members**

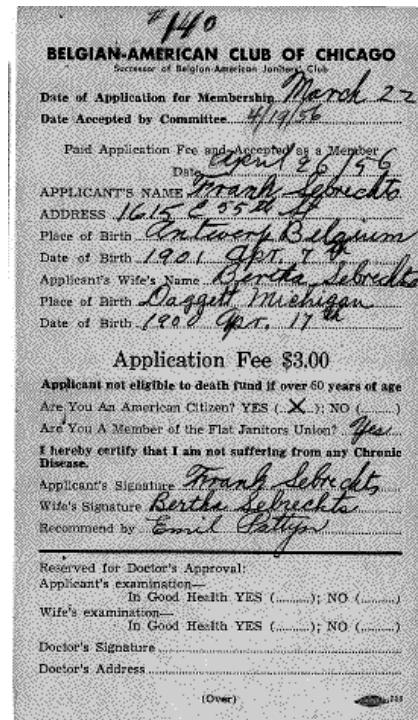
During the peak years, the Belgian-American Club of Chicago had not less than 675 members. Although there is no written evidence of this, there are some indications that this was during the 1950s.

Thus far, 2761 members and their spouses have been identified on the basis of the documents that are still available.

Since the Death Benefit was, as a rule of thumb, based on one dollar per contributing member, the membership can be estimated at over 600 during the late 1940s and the 1950s. By the end of the 1960s, it dropped to over 500, and by the mid 1970s to over 450, to reach 300 in 1980 and then declining rapidly. In the late 1990s the death benefit paid still reached \$200, but it is almost certain that by then the financial reserves of the Club were being used.

From the BACC records and other sources, it has often been possible to determine the country, sometimes the place, of birth of the members and their spouses. These data produce following statistics:

Northern America	35.11%
Belgium	29.19%
Not specified	25.12%
Other Western European countries	6.48%
Central and Eastern European Countries	3.92%
Near East	0.11%
Far East	0.07%



## Beneficiary Records

The holdings of the Club's archives that are important for our research, consist in following documents:

- application forms
- membership and address cards
- death benefit beneficiary cards
- certificates of death
- correspondence

Unfortunately, the earliest documents date from about 1938/1939. In some cases the documents refer to a membership dating back to the 1920s. It is safe to assume that the list that is presented here is complete as from 1960 through 1998, and that the majority of the members is covered for the 1938 through 1960 period.

## Guidelines

When going through the list that is published in Belgian Laces, following guidelines may be of help:

### First names

Immigrants sometimes adopted a more familiar first name:

- Leopold: Paul
- Theofiel: Phillip
- Caroline: Lena

There are also less obvious "translations".

Since the material is so recent, many of the individuals may still be alive. Therefore, the first names of persons born after 1920 and for which I haven't found a death date, are obscured by the label [Private]. The relative who is researching that person will still be able to identify him of her on basis of the date of birth.

### Dates

The American format month-day-year was often confusing, both for the Belgian immigrant, and for the researcher. If the date doesn't seem to match with your data, I suggest that you interchange the month and the day number.

### Other sources

The list below also contains data from other sources, which are mainly:

- the Social Security Death Index
- submissions by descendants or other relatives

### The full picture

The list that is presently published contains minimal information. For some of the Club members nothing else is available, but for most at least the exact place of residence at a given time is known, and for many of them the information is almost complete.

You will forgive me if I take my very own Nonkel Jef and Tante Lisa as an example:

====

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Petrus Josephus PAUWELS</b>
<b>Birth:</b>	24 Jun 1885 De Klinge, Molenstraat
<b>Emigration:</b>	15 Oct 1910 Antwerp to New York, with SS Vaderland
<b>Destination:</b>	15 Oct 1910 Superior, Douglas County, Wisconsin
<b>Residence:</b>	1916 Superior, Douglas County, Wisconsin - 99 East 3rd
<b>Naturalization:</b>	28 Jan 1916 Douglas County, Wisconsin - Circuit Court / Petition Volume 11 Nr 1060
<b>Residence:</b>	1930s Kieldrecht
<b>Residence:</b>	11 Feb 1946 Chicago, Cook County, Illinois - 7723 Burnham Ave
<b>Last Resided:</b>	Oct 1965 Chicago, Cook County, Illinois- 3013 East 78th Street
<b>Death:</b>	14 Oct 1965 Chicago, Cook County, Illinois - St. Bernard's Hospital
<b>Funeral Service:</b>	16 Oct 1965 (Church?) - Walter J DeVriendt, 2708 N Western, Chicago 60647
<b>Interment:</b>	16 Oct 1965 Worth, Cook County, Illinois - Holy Sepulchre Cemetery
<b>Called:</b>	Jef
<b>BACC #:</b>	Member Belgian-American Club of Chicago #132 (11 Feb 1946)
<b>Occupation:</b>	Farmer (1909); None (1930); Janitor (1977)
<b>Soc. Sec. #:</b>	PAUWELS, JOSEPH, 340-10-8091, IL, 24 JUN 1885, OCT 1965, IL
<b>Cause of death:</b>	Bronchopneumonia / Gangrene of right leg, iliac artery thrombosis
<b>Father:</b>	Joannes PAUWELS (1851-1932)
<b>Mother:</b>	Philomena GOOSSENS (1854-1933)
<b>Other spouses:</b>	Jeannette JANSSENS

## THANK YOU FOR REMEMBERING TO SEND IN YOUR DUES FOR 2001!

**Documents**

Trouwboekje (photocopy)

Doodsprentje met foto

Certificate of Naturalization (photocopy)

Doodsprentje

**BACC**

Recommended for membership by John C WEYN (1946).

Only the first name "Joseph" in application form.

Joe PAUWELS recommended for membership: - August VAN HOVE (1954)

**Naturalization**

Naturalizations Douglas County, Wisconsin, vol 11 page 10 nr. 1060 dd 28 October 1915: Jozef Pauwels, res. 199 East 3rd St., laborer, born 24 June 1885 Ost Vlaanderen, emig. Antwerp ± 15 October 1910, arrived New York 24 October 1910 vessel Vaderland, intention 31 August 1912, wife Janette Pauwels, no children; Witn. Hector Gotelaere, carpenter, 181 E. 5th St, René Lagae, 319 E. 1st St; Paul Daneels, Christ Nord.

**Relations**

Treedt 1909 als "Jozef Pauwels, 24 jaar, landbouwer te Kieldrecht", op als getuige bij huwelijk broer Franciscus Josephus Pauwels.

**Description**

Age 30; height 5 foot 6 inches; color white; complexion fair; color of eyes bleu; color of hair brown.

**Marriage:** 23 Jul 1930 Kieldrecht

**Church marriage:** 23 Jul 1931 Kieldrecht

**Marriage witnesses:** Petrus Pauwels en Emilius Kint

**Spouse:** **Elisa Maria Stephania PICAVET**

**Birth:** 2 Feb 1904 Clinge, Zeeuws Vlaanderen - Nieuw Namen

**Residence:** 17 Apr 1941 Chicago, Cook Co, Illinois - East 73rd Street 1971

**Naturalization:** 17 Apr 1941 US District Court

**Residence:** 11 Feb 1946 Chicago, Cook Co., Illinois - 7723 Burnham Ave

**Residence:** 1960s Chicago, Cook Co., Illinois - E 78th Street 3013, Chicago 60649

**Residence:** 22 Jun 1969 Antwerpen - Boomgaardstraat 75

**Last Resided:** 1976, 1977 Calumet City, Cook Co, Illinois - State Street 1451

**Death:** 30 May 1977 Calumet City, Cook Co, Illinois - At home, State Street 1451

**Funeral Service:** 2 Jun 1977 South Holland, Cook Co, Illinois

Drumm Funeral Home, 1200 E 162nd St. South Holland, Ill

**Funeral Service:** 2 Jun 1977 (Place?) Mother of God Church

**Interment:** 2 Jun 1977 Worth, Cook County, Illinois - Holy Sepulchre Cemetery

**BACC #:** Member Belgian-American Club of Chicago #132 (11 Feb 1946)

#120-SS (1 Apr 1967) #W-20 (no date - 1960s?)

**BACC Death Benefit:** Voucher #1977/003 = USD 450

**Occupation:** None (1930); Homemaker (1977)

**Soc. Sec. #:** 360-24-2311

**Cause of death:** Carcinomatoses, carcinoma of uterus

**Father:** Charles Louis PICAVET (1871-1954)

**Mother:** Marie Louise VERGAUWEN (1872-1937)

**Other spouses:** George François THIRY

**Documents:** Doodsprentje

**Description:** Age 37; sex female; color white; complexion fair; color of eyes grey; color of hair brown; height 5 foot 1 inch; weight 100 pounds.

**Children:** 1 F: [Private] PAUWELS

2 F: [Private] PAUWELS

====

Any queries for further information will be welcome. - J.A.G. PICAVET, Doorn 9, BE - 9150 Kruibeke, Belgium  
e-mail: picavet@ping.be

<sup>1</sup> History of the Belgian-American Club of Chicago, an undated text, attributed to Joe HERMAN.

<sup>1</sup> Constitution and By-Laws of the Belgian-American Club, Incorporated, Founded July, 1915, Chicago, Illinois

<sup>1</sup> Implied here is the membership of the Chicago Flat Janitors Union, Local 1

<sup>1</sup> Constitution and By-Laws of the Belgian-American Janitors Club, revised January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1946

<sup>1</sup> By-Laws of the Belgian-American Club of Chicago, revised June 1<sup>st</sup>, 1948

<sup>11</sup> By-Laws of the Belgian-American Club of Chicago, revised April 1<sup>st</sup>, 1960

<sup>1</sup> Letter from the Club to the California Department of Consumer Affairs, October 6, 1972.

<sup>1</sup> Allegedly the earlier records have been destroyed after the basement where the Club's secretary kept them, had been flooded. The search goes on nevertheless.

**ROCK ISLAND, IL - 1900 US CENSUS** - Extracted from FHL#1240338-1240339 - part 2

## 4th Avenue

<b>VAN DE WALL</b> , Louis	M	X	Nov 1861	Belgium	1893-Na	day laborer
<b>VAN DE WALL</b> , Emily	F	W	May 1866	Belgium	1894	
<b>VAN DE WALL</b> , Lida	F	D	Dec 1897	Belgium	1894	at school
<b>COPILLE</b> , Charles	M	Boarder	Mar 1875	Belgium	1896-Pa	day laborer
<b>STRAEVE</b> , Henry	M	Boarder	Mar 1864	Belgium	1893-Na	iron moulder
<b>DECRAMER</b> , Louisa	F	X	Jan 1860	Belgium	1892	Keeper of boarding house
<b>DECRAMER</b> , Henri	M	Brother	1850	Belgium	1892-Pa	day laborer
<b>AMERY</b> , Henry	M	D	Feb 1862	Belgium	1892-Pa	day laborer
<b>AMERY</b> , Camil	M	Boarder	Apr 1868	Belgium	1892-Pa	day laborer
<b>BOUPREZ</b> , Alouis	M	Boarder	Jul 1860	Belgium	1899-Al	day laborer
<b>VANDERBEKE</b> , Camil	M	Boarder	Feb 1866	Belgium	1900-Al	day laborer
<b>SPRIET</b> , Charles	M	X	1857	Belgium	1886-Na	iron moulder
<b>SPRIET</b> , Lena	F	D	Sep 1859	Belgium	1888	
<b>SPRIET</b> , Maude	F	D	Jan 1891	IL		at school
<b>SPRIET</b> , Henry	M	S	May 1893	IL		
<b>SPRIET</b> , Frank	M	S	Feb 1895	IL		
<b>SPRIET</b> , Charles	M	S	Jan 1897	IL		
<b>SPRIET</b> , Edward	M	S	Jan 1899	IL		
<b>SPRIET</b> , Martha	F	D	May 1900	IL		
<b>DE COSTER</b> , Peter	M	X	May 1848	Belgium	1886	Saloon Keeper
DE COSTER, Sarah	F	W	Apr 1849	Belgium	1886	
DE COSTER, Alice	F	D	Sep 1855	Belgium	1892	?

## 5th Avenue

<b>DE SUTTER</b> , Clem	M	X	Jun 1870	Belgium	1892-Na	RRd section hand
DE SUTTER, Emma	F	W	Nov 1869	Belgium	1892	
DE SUTTER, Lizzie	F	D	Aug 1895			
<b>DEMEY</b> , Peter	M	Lodger	Sep 1866	Belgium	1892-Na	Day laborer RRoad
<b>VAN DAELE</b> , Emil	M	Lodger	May 1861	Belgium	1892-Pa	Day Lab. @ arsenal
<b>BAEYERS</b> , John	M	Lodger	Jun 1862	Belgium	1891-Na	Day laborer
<b>VAN DAELE</b> , Benjamin	M	Lodger	Jan 1866	Belgium	1890-Na	Day lab @ hardware
<b>PETERS</b> , Jerry	M	Lodger	Feb 1862	Belgium	1892-Na	salesman
<b>DE PAPE</b> , August	M	Lodger	Jul 1870	Belgium	1899-Al	Factory day laborer
<b>DELOW</b> , Theophile	M	X	Feb 1869	Belgium	1890-Na	iron molder
DELOW, Mary	F	W	Mar 1873		1871	
<b>DE WANDELL</b> , Melanie	F	M-I-L	Jan 1853	Belgium	1871	
<b>BURR--E</b> , Emile	M	X	Jun 1882	IN (Belgian parents)		day laborer
<b>JUKES</b> , Peter	M	Boarder	Oct 1858	Belgium	1885-Al	steel mill day lab.
<b>VERHOEYIEN</b> , August	M	Boarder	Jul 1868	Belgium	1892-Pa	steel mill day lab.
<b>BUCLE</b> , August	M	Boarder	Aug 1853	Belgium	1894-Pa	steel mill day lab.
<b>DE LEE</b> , August	M	Boarder	Apr 1859	Belgium	1893-Pa	steel mill day lab.
<b>DE LEE</b> , Philip	M	Boarder	Oct 1863	Belgium	1888-Pa	factory day lab.
<b>ABEER</b> , Frank	M	Boarder	Jan 1865	Belgium	1890-Pa	day laborer
<b>VAN BURVELD</b> , Charles	M	Boarder	Apr 1858	Belgium	1890-Na	day laborer
<b>STEMBROUCH</b> , Alvis	M	Boarder	Mar 1873	Belgium	1892-Na	RRd day laborer

## Moline City

<b>MERTENS</b> , John	M	X	Mar 1861	IL (Belgian parents)		Saloon Keeper
<b>MERTENS</b> , Lina	F	W	Jun 1869	Germany	1886	
<b>MERTENS</b> , Charles	M	S	Oct 1890	CO		at school
<b>MERTENS</b> , Annie	F	D	Dec 1891	CO		at school
<b>MERTENS</b> , Lilly	F	D	Oct 1895	IL		at school
<b>MERTENS</b> , Daisy	F	D	Feb 1897	IL		

## 12th Avenue

<b>VAN HECK</b> , Joseph	M	X	Jan 1867	Belgium	1894-Al	laborer @ steel mill
<b>VAN HECK</b> , Leona	F	W	Jun 1866	Belgium	1895	

## THANK YOU FOR REMEMBERING TO SEND IN YOUR DUES FOR 2001!

VAN HECK, Mary	F	D	Apr 1889	Belgium	1895	at school
VAN HECK, Stephina	F	D	May 1891	Belgium	1895	at school
VAN HECK, Calmie?	M	S	Sep 1893	Belgium	1895	at school
VAN HECK, Al---?	F	D	Nov 1896	Canada		
<b>Railroad Avenue</b>						
<b>BOGAERTS, Emil</b>	M	X	Apr 1872	Belgium	1890-Na	Saloon keeper
BOGAERTS, Ella E.	F	W	Mar 1876	Belgium	1878	
BOGAERTS, Nellie M.	F	D	May 1894	IL		
BOGAERTS, Margarite	F	D	Oct 1896	IL		
BOGAERTS, Della	F	D	Feb 1898	IL		
<b>CLAYS, August</b>	F	Boarder	Sep 1865	Belgium	1891-Na	bar tender
?, Edward	M	X	Jul 1862	Belgium	1882-Na	Saloon keeper
?, Silvie	F	W	Nov 1863	Belgium	1873	
?, Victoria	F	D	Aug 1883	IL		
?, Emil	M	S	Nov 1889	IL		at school
?, Anna	F	D	Apr 1894	IL		
<b>VANDA, Martin</b>	M	X	Dec 1869	Belgium	1880-Na	saloon keeper
VANDA, Emerence	F	W	Jan 1874	Belgium	1878	
<b>VAN RENDERGHEN, Edgard</b>	M	Boarder	Nov 1874	Belgium	1899-Al	
<b>KAUSEMAKER, Amelie</b>	F	Servant	May 1879	Belgium	1880-20	servant in family
<b>VERSHOVER, Charles</b>	M	X	Jan 1845	Belgium	1885-Na	RR Laborer
VERSHOVER, Louise	F	W	Mar 1844	Belgium	1885	
VERSHOVER, Clara L.	F	D	Oct 1883	Belgium	1885	saleswoman @ crock. store
<b>BUSEIS, Peter</b>	M	Boarder	Apr 1846	Belgium	1890-Al	day laborer
<b>SMITH, Van</b>	M	Boarder	Jan 1874	Belgium	1890-Al	Iron molder
<b>COOKEY, Augusta</b>	F	Boarder	Feb 1864	Belgium	1897-Al	Lab. @ Wagon Fact.
<b>LISER, Augusta</b>	F	Boarder	Dec 1866	Belgium	1900-Al	RR Laborer
<b>DECUPPER, Augusta</b>	F	Boarder	Sep 1868	Belgium	1896-Al	RR laborer
<b>DE MARTICOLAISE, Emil</b>	M	Boarder	Feb 1869	Belgium	1891-Na	iron molder
<b>CALSON, Charley</b>	M	Boarder	Aug 1867	Belgium	1885-Na	laborer @ arsenal
<b>VERSHOVER, Julius</b>	M	X	Jul 1874	Belgium		
VERSHOVER, Matilda	F	W	May 1881	IL		
VERSHOVER, Albert	M	S	Mar 1899	IL		
<b>Eleventh Street</b>						
<b>HAGAN, Joseph Van</b>	M	X	Jul 1838	Belgium	1880-Na	day laborer
HAGAN, Johanna	F	W	Aug 1847	Belgium	1880	
HAGAN, Sophie	F	D	Oct 1877	Belgium	1880	
HAGAN, Adolph	M	S	Oct 1886	IL		
<b>VAN DAELE, August</b>	M	X	Jun 1864	Belgium	1893-Na	saloon keeper
VAN DAELE, Eugenie	F	W	Mar 1861	Belgium	1893	
VAN DAELE, August	M	Uncle	Aug 1840	Belgium	1893-Pa	bartender
<b>3 illegible names</b>						
<b>4 illegible names</b>						
<b>CLAEYSEN, Hipoliet</b>	M	Partner	Sep 1859, Belgium		1891-Na	laborer day
<b>VERZELE, Edward</b>	M	X	Jun 1844, Belgium		1881-Al	day laborer
VERZELE, Mary F	W		Mar 1868, Belgium		1888	
<b>VAN WOUTERGHEM, ?</b>	M	X	Dec 1857, Belgium		1887	saloon keeper
VAN WOUTERGHEM, Mary	F	W	May 1868, Germany		1887	
VAN WOUTERGHEM, Robert	M	S	Aug 1890, KS			at school
VAN WOUTERGHEM, Kostrend? M	S		Oct 1892, IL			at school
VAN WOUTERGHEM, Charles	M	S	Aug 1894, IL			at school
VAN WOUTERGHEM, Frank	M	S	Feb 1896, IL			
VAN WOUTERGHEM, Augusta	F	D	Aug 1897, IL			
<b>GROER, Henry</b>	M	Servant	May 1866, Belgium		1891	bartender
<b>MCDANKEN, Mary</b>	F	Servant	Aug 1884, Belgium			

<b>VERHETZEL</b> , Felicite C.	F	X	Jun 1838, Belgium	1847	
<b>VERHETZEL</b> , Charles	M	S	Jul 1862, IL		blacksmith
<b>VERHETZEL</b> , John	M	S	Feb 1866, IL		brushmaker
<b>VERHETZEL</b> , Henry	M	S	Jun 1871, IL		coachman
<b>VERMEULEN</b> , Camiel	M	X	Unknown, Belgium	?-Na	saloon keeper
<b>VERMEULEN</b> , Romanie	F	W	Feb 1872, Belgium	1893	
<b>VERMEULEN</b> , Marie	F	D	Apr 1896, IL		
<b>VERMEULEN</b> , Clara	F	D	Oct 1897, IL		
<b>VERMEULEN</b> , Frederick	M	S	Dec 1898, IL		
<b>MAAS</b> , Gustaf	M	Boarder	May 1866, Belgium		
<b>DE WUFDOINE</b> ,	M	X	1869, Belgium	?-Al	day laborer
<b>DE WUFDOINE</b>	F	W	Jun 1873, Belgium	1900-Al	
<b>DE WUFDOINE</b>	M	S	Jul 1896, Belgium	1900-Al	
<b>DE WUFDOINE</b>	M	S	Jun 1898, Belgium	1900-Al	
<b>DE WUFDOINE</b>	M	S	May 1899, Belgium	1900-Al	
<b>?DELOOFER</b> , Fred	M	lodger	Feb 1857, Belgium	1891-Na	day laborer
<b>DE ZELLE</b> , Alfonse	M	Lodger	Feb 1857, Belgium	1893-Pa	day laborer
<b>COBIRG?</b> , Cole	M	X	Aug 1852, Belgium	1882-Na	day laborer
<b>COBIRG</b> , Charles	M	S	Oct 1878, Belgium	1882-Na	laborer
<b>COBIRG</b> , Frank	M	S	Nov 1888, IL		at school

*more names illegible -too dark*

<b>VERBIST</b> , Alfred	M	X	Jun 1858, Belgium	1885-Na	molder
<b>VERBIST</b> , ?	F	W	Jan 1843, Belgium	1873	
<b>VERBIST</b> , Adolf	M	?	Feb 1857, Belgium	1892-Al	day laborer
<b>VERMULLEM</b> , Gustaf	M	X	Jun 1866, Belgium	1888-Na	
<b>VERMULLEM</b> , Mary	F	W	Dec 1872, Germany	1872	
<b>VERMULLEM</b> , ?	M	S	Apr 1892, IL		
<b>VERMULLEM</b>	M	S	Sep 1894, IL		
<b>VERMULLEM</b> ?			IL		
<b>VERMULLEM</b> ?			IL		

**FHL#1240339**

<b>HEIRBRANT</b> , Ernest	M	X	Nov 1848, Belgium	1892-Na	laborer
<b>HEIRBRANT</b> , Pelgsie	F	W	Mar 1846, Belgium	1893	
<b>HEIRBRANT</b> , Gustave	M	S	May 1866, Belgium	1890-Na	iron molder
<b>HEIRBRANT</b> , Alphonse	M	S	Apr 1878, Belgium	1893	wheelmaker shop
<b>HEIRBRANT</b> , Selma	F	D	Apr 1880, Belgium	1893	
<b>HEIRBRANT</b> , Romania	F	D	Oct 1881, Belgium	1893	
<b>HEIRBRANT</b> , Alida	F	D	Mar 1884, Belgium	1893	
<b>HAMERLINK</b> , Eva	M	boarder	Jan 1865, Belgium	1891	laborer shop
<b>VERMERE</b> , Henry	M	boarder	Oct 1871, Belgium	1891	lab shop
<b>DE PAW</b> , Arthur	M	boarder	Jan 1876, Belgium	1898-Al	iron molder
<b>VERSLUIS</b> , Peter	M	X	Mar 1870, Belgium	1890-Al	laborer shop
<b>VERSLUIS</b> , Virginie	F	W	Jun 1875, Belgium	1887	
<b>VERSLUIS</b> , Peter	M	S	Jun 1895, NJ		
<b>VERSLUIS</b> , Amil	M	S	Aug 1897, NJ		
<b>VERSLUIS</b> , Camille	F	D	Sep 1899, IL		
<b>BLANCKE</b> , Julius	M	X	Apr 1869, Belgium	1892-Pa	butcher
<b>BLANCKE</b> , Alice	F	W	Sep 1880, IL		
<b>BLANCKE</b> , Florence	F	D	Sep 1897, IL		
<b>BLANCKE</b> , Frank	M	S	Dec 1898, IL		
<b>HEINKE--EN</b> , Camiel	M	X	1871, Belgium	1898	laborer shop
<b>HEINKE--EN</b> , Mara	F	W	Mar 1876, Belgium	1898	
<b>HEINKE--EN</b> , Magdalena	F	D	Dec 1897, Belgium	1898	
<b>HEINKE--EN</b> , Annie	F	D	May 1900, IL		
<b>VAN DE GNA--</b> , Charles	M	X	1869, Belgium	1893-Na	iron molder
<b>VAN DE GNA--</b> , Cordelia	F	W	Apr 1875, Belgium	1890	

## THANK YOU FOR REMEMBERING TO SEND IN YOUR DUES FOR 2001!

**"Finding Family: A Genealogical Journey to Belgium"**

by Christine A. VERSTRAETE

Christine A. Prucha - 27652-115 St. Trevor WI 53179 - 262/862-6209 cprucha@acronet.net

Until I began researching my family history, what I knew about my paternal ancestors didn't amount to much. I had a few photos and some old bills from the house where I'd grown up in Chicago, Ill. That's it.

My father, Seraphien Steve, talked little about his family. All he seemed to know was that his father, Louis, had come to this country from Ghent, Belgium. How he came to the U.S., when he came here, and why were just a few of the questions that remained unanswered.

Nearly 90 years later, I made the reverse trek and became the first person in my immediate family to set foot on European soil. With the guidance and gracious hosting of local genealogist Luc Verstraete of Bruges (no relation), some of the mysteries were solved and places in my family's past became more than just names on pieces of paper.

I wandered around the winding cobbled streets in the medieval town of Bruges with the strangest sense that the past lurked as an unseen layer just beneath the present. It was easy to envision my ancestors or their neighbors standing in the same spots centuries before me listening to the bells ringing in the Belfort or glancing up, as I did, to look at the Bear of Bruges decorating the corner of a Middle Ages-era building.

Clumping my way along the cobbles worn as smooth as silk by the passage of thousands of feet, I often expected to experience a mystical moment when I'd look down to find myself wearing rough peasant's garb instead of jeans. I walked undisturbed for blocks, the silence broken only by the distant clip-clop of the horse-drawn wagons - er - carriages. Along one road the only other soul was a young woman who stepped out of her house to diligently sweep the front step as housewives had done for generations.

I followed the curve of the road past rowhouses sandwiched one next to the other, their street level windows covered discreetly with lace. Short, medium and tall porcelain vases sat on the front windowsills screening the room interiors from view.

Even with a map, I got lost and wandered away from the main streets and the throngs of tourist traffic. I walked roads that snaked into each other or turned without warning into dead-ends. I learned that meandering has its advantages, though, leading me to discoveries I might otherwise missed had I stuck to the main thoroughfares.

Off the beaten path, I saw that some of the buildings had glass boxes or niches mounted up high on the corner wall. From its perch, a Madonna and Child gazed placidly over the fork in the cobbled road. When I came to the corner of "Sint George Straat" and "Poetevinstraat," I again was reminded of the intertwining of time past and present. The ceramic tile plaque on the

wall featured a religious picture installed in commemoration of where the plague ended in 1666. Here and there, I'd find another small niche or a corridor in a dead-end road that looked like it hadn't changed in hundreds of years.

That sense of timelessness was even more evident in Ghent, where my grandfather, Louis, was born in 1883. I passed one building, its exterior worn and boarded, but still boasting the same delightful emblems my ancestors had likely also seen on their way to market.

As my host and I walked along the "Elyseese Velden," one of the older streets near the canal, I caught the curious stares of a couple of the neighbors standing in their doorways. For me, it was amazing to be standing where my family had once lived. For the onlookers, it was probably just as intriguing to see someone so interested in a place their families had called home for generations. Unfortunately, the closest link I had with my past was learning that the present owners had bought the house from my grandfather's youngest brother's widow.

My lack of Flemish (Dutch) and the lack of English spoken by most Belgians on the street made no difference in the few times I asked for directions.

The people were extremely friendly and helpful. Not once did they look apprehensive or unsure about being approached by a stranger. Instead, they were usually curious and willing to help even if they couldn't. I don't think you've really been lost until you've gotten directions from a trio of babushka-wearing housewives, all arguing animatedly with each other in Flemish. I enjoyed the interchange, even if I left still unsure of where I was going.

My search took an unexpected turn when my host and I drove to the small town of Eeklo, which means "The Place of the Oak." Until then, I'd never even known the town existed. Stepping inside a small stationer's store for information, it was interesting to watch my host, Luc, conversing animatedly with the shopkeeper.

The exchange brought an eerie jolt of recognition. With his white hair swept back off his high forehead, his plaid shirt, the bright sapphire blue eyes and the cigarette dangling in his hand, the shopkeeper was the image of my father, who had died in 1977. It was an odd feeling to travel hundreds of miles and find a complete stranger who made my ancestors seem more like real people. Watching him, I saw not only my father, but also his father and each generation of fathers before him who had been, lived and died in this small Flemish town.

At the town archives in Eeklo, I was surprised to find that history was approachable and not locked away behind closed doors as in some of the bigger cities. The plain room had worn worktables and rows of cabinets filled with large, bound books, the pages covered with entries written in slightly faded ink.

It was all here. The curator had researched the VERSTRAETE name back to the 1600s. Oddly enough, through his research I got a complete family tree that followed the lines of my great-great grandfather's brothers, but my great-great-grandfather, Englebert, wasn't listed. Even more amazing to me was when the curator took out another book, opened it, and pointed to the page. There, written in

Latin in scrawling script, was a birth certificate for the first traceable ancestor in my family - 11 generations back from myself.

While I'll never know exactly why my grandfather, Louis, came to settle in Chicago, I've made my own guesses. Like the thousands of other immigrants who came to America's shores in 1907, he was probably drawn by the chance of a better life here. What was at home? His mother was dead. He'd probably heard the glowing stories painted by an uncle who had already made the trip between America and Belgium several times.

The future looked dim by comparison. The reality was Louis' father, Seraphin - my great-grandfather - came from a long line of laborers. Many were "scharenslijpers" - scissors and knife sharpeners. My great-grandfather was illiterate and had a low-level job that had no place or meaning in the 1900s.

This was a new age. Electricity was a marvel. Everyday, new discoveries were being made. The contrast of my grandfather's life at home and the life that beckoned from across the ocean was startling. I can imagine my grandfather's desire at age 23 to leave the past behind and create a new life in a new country. He and a cousin came to Chicago together, their heads probably filled with young men's dreams. As far as I know, that cousin helped him get a good job working as a streetcar repairman.

Somehow there was a break in the family. My grandfather might have felt some sorrow when he received a photo of his father's grave in Belgium, but he never looked back. His brother did join him here in 1914, lucky to escape the horrors of World War I, but to my knowledge, that was my grandfather's last link with his homeland. I don't think my father ever knew that he still had living relatives in Belgium or that he had cousins in Michigan. The link to the Chicago cousins was lost over time as well.

That's what made my journey to Belgium so odd. Everything around me was a part of my heritage, but none of it meant anything to me personally. I was a stranger here.

Being a dog lover, one of the things I took special note of was the close relationship that seemed to exist between the dogs and their owners in Bruges. These dogs went everywhere. One dog sat calmly under the bench in the Burg next to his elderly owner, the two of them watching the crowds of people walking by. Another owner walked nonchalantly into the bank, a small dog in tow behind him.

The streets are clean and the dogs are extremely well trained. I watched one dog perched on the steps in front of his door. He sat there, his tail wagging, every muscle yearning as he looked down the street. His anxiousness worried me. I feared any minute he'd dart out into the street, but he never moved until his owner crossed the road and came up the steps. Even more impressive and amusing was watching a large German Shepherd dog lying quietly on the bricked path near the Beguinage, a cloistered religious community. Only his ears twitched slightly as several pigeons walked around him.

Oddly enough, after visiting Belgium I learned that my family did pass on at least one semi-cultural tradition. One of the first meals I ate in Belgium was steak and "frites" or fries. The crispy, Belgian-style "frites" are a popular staple of the street vendors in towns like Bruges where you can buy them plain or with any number of condiments like mayonnaise. In recent years, there has even been an influx of shops opening in New York and elsewhere specializing in Belgian fries.

Growing up, I remember my mother cooking steak and fries, one of my father's favorite meals. As my mother and father grew up in the same neighborhood, she remembered my dad's mother making the same meal for her family, no doubt a result of her husband's Belgian tastes.

Strange, isn't it? I went all the way to Belgium to learn that the meal I had always considered so American was actually an even older family favorite than I had realized.

In Ghent, time spans the ages from the distant past represented by the Castle of the Counts in the background, to the streetcar, cars and bicycle following the cobbled streets.  
Photo By Christine A. Verstraete © 2000/01 C. Verstraete

## THANK YOU FOR REMEMBERING TO SEND IN YOUR DUES FOR 2001!

## A Success Story

IT TOOK 55 YEARS AND LOTS  
OF HELP FROM SOME  
WONDERFUL PEOPLE

By David McKay

It was some time in the early 40's, and during the height of World War II, that my mother decided she wanted to go to work at a local war plant.

To do this she needed a Social Security number, and to get one required a birth certificate.

Since my mother came to the US as a child, she was not completely sure where she was born. With both her parents dead she thought that she was born somewhere in the Charleroi, Belgium area and possibly Souvret; she was not sure. She wrote the officials to see if she could get a birth certificate, but no luck. It was impossible.

Belgium officials at the time had their hands full, and were more concerned about the problems Hitler was causing in this small country than finding birth certificates.

Her early childhood and life in Belgium was always a mystery to my brothers and me. When I was growing up in Mt. Vernon, Ohio, the old Belgians never talked much about the "old county", except among themselves, then it was always in French so we kids could never understand. Many of them did not even admit to being from Belgium. In fact her marriage license says she was born not in Belgium, but in Souvret, France. Solving this mystery became a passion with me, so I decided to celebrate my mother's 109<sup>th</sup> birthday by making every effort to find where she was born and something of her mysterious childhood.

I had subscribed to the Belgium Roots List, and found that here was a wealth of information at my fingertips -- regions, towns, civil administrations, hints on how you go about sending money, and links to search.

The real help came from contacts I have made through Belgium Roots.

I visited Regine Brindle in Peru IN. She was great in locating ancestors.

I contacted Father Jean Ducat. His records are invaluable. He told me that my grandfather left from Souvret for the US. I had also made acquaintance with a distant cousin, Jean-Marie Dointaine, in Belgium. After corresponding with him for some time, I decided to use some of my frequent flyer mileage points and at 69 years old made the pilgrimage to Belgium last spring.

Jean-Marie and I spent two exciting days at the Mons archives. Mons is the regional capital of Hainaut, Belgium. To my disappointment we were told that the records, including my mother's birth and the marriage of her parents, were not yet available. It would be at least 2 years before the records would be ready. We found every ancestor in all my lines back to 1650, but no records of mother and her family from 1876 on, were to be found.

When I returned home I saw on Belgium Roots a listing of all the small towns civil administration offices.

Courcelles was the administration office for Souvret.

I took the advice of some one who had written to Belgium Roots saying they had success by sending \$10 to the civil administration office to cover copying costs.

My feeling was let's try, what's "ten bucks" when you have a passion?

Giving the necessary vital information is very important to make a search.

Enter Dominique Cambier, one of our new networking contacts, who lives near Courcelles. Dominique offered to intercede for me at the office in Courcelles. They had received my money but were putting it aside because I did not send an international money order.

Dominique was successful in getting things moving. I not only obtained the birth certificate of my mother, but the marriage acts of my mother's parents; all from Souvret.

With all of the effort of this search, and especially with the help of many wonderful Belgians; I had finally completed a search, which was started over 55 years ago.

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Dave McKay started a Glassworkers' email newsletter. Anyone interested in joining his growing group of Glassworkers' descendants, contact him at:

[mckay@gatecom.com](mailto:mckay@gatecom.com)

## Club News

## The Wisconsin Corner - by MaryAnn Defnet, WI

The last meeting of the season was held on October 19. The clubroom was crowded with members who had fond memories, and pictures to prove it, of their recent trip to Belgium. Many expressed their delight at the hospitality of the hosts and hostesses.

Club Vice-President Jim Lampereur announced the resignation of Secretary-Treasurer Elmer DeDecker. A member of the Club since its inception in 1963, Mr. DeDecker has been an officer since 1980 and was coordinator of the tours to Belgium for the past fifteen years. Club officers named Kim Potier of Sturgeon Bay as temporary Secretary—Treasurer until elections next Spring.

The final get-together for the Belgian Club will be its annual Christmas party on December 3 at the Rendezvous at Neuren, Wisconsin.

Two recent visitors to the Green Bay area were Rev. Jean Ducat and Mr. Mathieu Luys of Biesme and Sint-Steven-Woluwe, respectively. Mr. Luys became interested in the settlement at Belgium, Wisconsin, about a year ago and carried on correspondence with a village officer there. When he was invited to visit, he sought the help of Father Ducat who has been to this area several times. They arrived September 27 and were hosted by Mary Ann Defnet, Green Bay, and Rev. Samuel Jadin, Manitowoc. Their visit included not only Belgium (Wisconsin), but the Belgian settlement of Northeastern Wisconsin, St. Norbert Abbey and College, a shopping tour, and attendance at the Green Bay Packers-Chicago Bears football game.

## BELGIUM in the NEWS : check the website

<http://www.diplobel.org/usa/>

## To and From:

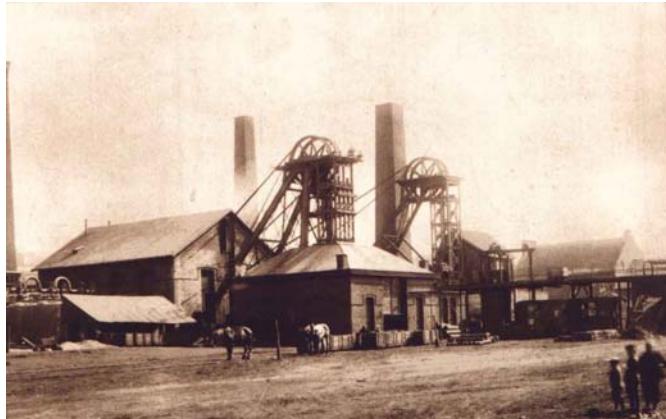
From Mariana WILKE, Landenberg, PA

"...I've traced my ancestors to the Charleroi area, also Quaregnon, Gilly, Marcinelle and Mesvin. Do you know of anywhere I could obtain pictures of these towns - either old ones about 1880 or more modern ones? I am also interested in the history of these towns. Several issues ago there was an address for obtaining a book on Charleroi but I failed to order the book at that time... By the way, we used to live in Evansville, Indiana - loved it! My family lived in Greene and Sullivan Counties, IN from about 1905 to the 40's."

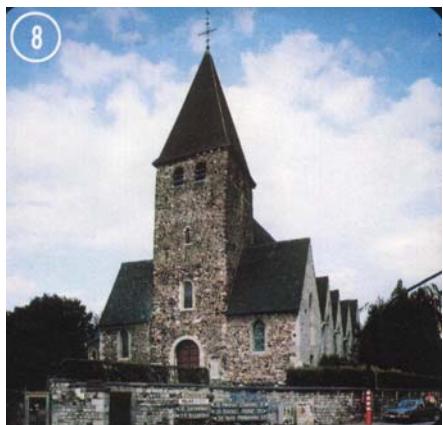
### Answer:

Dear Mariana,

Thank You for your letter. Here is the information on the book about Charleroi. I do not know whether it is still available though. As for pictures and histories, let's see if anyone here might be able to help. Andre BODART, sent quite a few by email and if you have email access I can forward them to you. Let me know.



Roux - Mines



Marcinelle, St Martin's Church

"Rue par Rue: Charleroi, Hier et Aujourd'hui"  
Dossier de la Nouvelle Gazette

(in French)

In about one hundred pages, the fascinating history of the streets of Charleroi, with several dozen pictures, old and new. A document filled with anecdotes about the past of this city.

To order for 200 francs each to pay to "La Nouvelle Gazette" 's account 360-0002260-35 in Charleroi, with the specific note: "Rues de Charleroi". Shipping charges in Belgium: 75 francs per copy.

In other countries, or for large numbers contact our sales department at tel# 071/27.66.81

Website: <http://www.charline.be/gazette>

e-mail address: [gazette@charline.be](mailto:gazette@charline.be)

Mont sur Marchienne: Quick-Takes of Charleroi  
The exhibit «Pays de Charleroi - mémoire photographique» - "Land of Charleroi - photographic memories", proposed by the Museum of Photography retraces the life of what is called today the Urban Community of the Charleroi Region, from 1847 to 1945. The people who thought up this exhibit invite us on a memory tour: marriages, festivities, more or less well-known people, the army, the war..

From Rev. Karel DENYS, Arlington, VA

"Last March I had some friends from Michigan visiting me, and we went to Mount Vernon, the home and burial place of George Washington. I had taken with me a copy of a text about a Walloon ancestor of George Washington (\*see article in next issue). The guide was very interested in learning more about this Nicolas Martiau. Maybe Father Ducat, a good friend of my confrere Father James Meuree, now in San Antonio, TX, can find some more information as the Virginia Historical Society would be very interested.

Within the next month I will be moving to our CIM "dominion House" adjoining our Missionhurst property, built for confreres who retire and may need assisted living care.

Give my best regards to Pierre and Leen Inghels. God bless you."